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MEMOIRS, &c.

OF THE

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.





FRONTISPIECE.



Van Ouden. Geo. Murray. sc.
Peter III. giving up his Sword & Empire to his Wife Catherine II.

Published at the Act direct Feb. 8th 1797. by B. Crosby, London.

542
AUTHENTIC MEMOIRS
OF THE
LIFE AND REIGN
OF
CATHERINE II.

Empress of all the Russias.

COLLECTED FROM
AUTHENTIC MS's. TRANSLATIONS, &c.
OF THE
KING OF SWEDEN, RIGHT HON. LORD MOUNTMORRES,
LORD MALMESBURY, M. DE VOLNEY, AND
OTHER INDISPUTABLE AUTHORITIES.

Embellished with an elegant Frontispiece.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
And sold by B. CROSBY, No. 4, Stationer's-Court,
Ludgate-Street.

1797.

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P R E F A C E.

IT is the duty of every Biographer, faithfully to record the VIRTUES and VICES of the character of which he treats, with equal candour and impartiality; impressed with this idea, the author of these Memoirs, has, he trusts, been just to the late Empress; fain, indeed, would he have drawn a veil over the cruelty which attended her accession, and which he fears may disgust some *gentle* readers, but convinced of his duty, as above hinted, he was determined, “ Nothing “ to extenuate, nor aught set down in “ malice.” Notwithstanding the sanguinary beginning of this history, it is presumed, the further the reader proceeds,

ceeds, the more entertainment he will derive. The authenticity of all that is mentioned, is certainly the greatest recommendation which the work can have, and the sources from whence the accounts flow, have no room to doubt their veracity. In order to edify, as well entertain, the Russian manners, dresses, pastimes, &c. &c. are occasionally introduced; also, anecdotes of the Grand Duke, (now Emperor) and other great characters of Russia, Poland, Sweden, &c.—in short, the utmost pains are taken to interest the reader, and render the present volume worthy the libraries of the POLITICIAN, the NOVELIST, and HISTORIAN.

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AUTHENTIC

AUTHENTIC MEMOIRS
OF THE
LIFE AND REIGN
OF
CATHERINE II.
EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.

CHAP. I.

*Preliminary Observations. — Accession of Peter III.
— His Folly and Imprudence. — Enterprising spirit
of Catherine. — Her Preparations for deposing her
Husband the Emperor. — Her Success. — Peter's
abject submission. — Catherine's Manifesto in con-
sequence of her Accession. — Peter's Sudden Death.
— The Empress's curious account thereof.*

SINCE the reign of Peter the Great, the history
of Russia is chiefly remarkable during the
government of *Emperesses*, and, no doubt, the acts
of CATHERINE THE SECOND, are full as in-
teresting as any memoirs of her predecessors, and
her accession to the throne as extraordinary as that
of the *first* Catherine.

The subject of our present enquiry was daughter of Christian Augustus, Prince of Anhalt Zerbst, born on the 2d of May, 1729, and married to the Emperor Peter III. grandson of Peter the Great, September 1, 1745.

For the information of our readers, it will be necessary to make some slight observations, previous to the *short* reign of Peter III. which will lead us regularly to treat of the accession of the late Empress.

Elizabeth, second daughter of Peter the Great, preceded Peter III. his grandson, and deposed Prince Ivan in his infancy, son of Anthony, Prince of Brunswick Wolfenbüttele, and the Princess Anne of Mecklenburgh, who, as soon as born was designed, though illegally, to wear the Imperial crown of Russia, after the death of the great aunt, the Empress Anna Swanona. The reign of Elizabeth was uncommonly glorious. She was contracted in marriage (May 20, 1727) to Charles, Duke of Holstein Gottorp, Bishop of Lubeck; but he dying eleven days after, she passed her days in celibacy. She was seized on the 2d of January, 1762, with a violent bleeding at the nose, and died on the 5th, about two in the afternoon, at Petersburg. She retained her senses to the last; took her leave
of

of the great Duke and Duchess in a very tender manner; and shewed great presence of mind and resignation. The day preceding her last, she directed the remitting of all fines, the setting at liberty 40,000 prisoners, and the abatement of the salt duties, to the amount of a million and half of rubles. Immediately after her decease, the senate and the other supreme colleges of the empire, who were assembled in the palace for that purpose, took the oaths to her nephew, the Duke of Holstein, under the name of Peter III.

This Czar began his reign in a very popular manner. He freed the nobility and gentry from all slavish vassalage—recalled many unhappy exiles from Siberia, and relieved the poor by lessening the taxes upon certain necessaries of life. The following declaration was immediately after his accession, delivered by his order, to the Imperial, French, and Swedish Ministers, residing at Petersburgh.

“ His Imperial Majesty, who, upon his happy
 “ accession to the throne of his ancestors, looks
 “ upon it to be his principal duty to extend and
 “ augment the welfare of his subjects; sees, with
 “ extreme regret, that the flames of the present
 “ war, which has already continued for six years,
 “ and has been for a long time burthenome to all

“ the powers engaged in it, far from tending now
 “ to a conclusion, are, on the contrary, gathering
 “ fresh strength, to the great misfortune of the
 “ several nations; and that mankind has so much
 “ the more to suffer from this scourge, as the
 “ fortune of arms, which has been hitherto subject
 “ to so many vicissitudes, is equally exposed to
 “ them for the future.

“ Wherefore, his Imperial Majesty, compassion-
 “ ating, through his humane disposition, the effusion
 “ of innocent blood, and being desirous, on his
 “ part, of putting a stop to so great an evil, has
 “ judged it necessary to declare to the courts in
 “ alliance with *Russia*, that, preferring to every
 “ other consideration the first law, which God
 “ prescribes to sovereigns, which is the preservation
 “ of the people entrusted to them, he wishes to
 “ procure peace to his empire, to which it is so
 “ necessary, and of so great value; and at the
 “ same time to contribute, as much as may be in
 “ his power, to the re-establishment of it throughout
 “ all *Europe*.

“ It is in order to this, that his Imperial Majesty
 “ is ready to make a sacrifice of the conquests
 “ made by the arms of *Russia* in this war, in hopes
 “ that the allied courts will, on their part, equally
 “ prefer

“ prefer the restoration of peace and tranquillity,
 “ to the advantages, which they might expect from
 “ the war, and which they cannot obtain but by a
 “ continuance of the effusion of human blood.
 “ And to this end, his Imperial Majesty, with the
 “ best intention, advises them to employ, on their
 “ side, all their power towards the accomplishment
 “ of so great and so salutary a work.”

His intention, however, of commencing war with
 Denmark, for the recovery of his Holstein domi-
 nions, soon diminished this short-lived popularity,
 and lost him the character of a *peaceable* Emperor.
 Being bred a Lutheran, he openly avowed his con-
 tempt of the Greek communion, which, added to
 his undisguised partiality for Holstein, provoked
 Russia, and seemed to threaten the late-acquired
 throne, with all the violence of a civil war. In
 the mean time, his wife (whose maiden name was
 Sophia Augusta, but which on marriage, she
 changed to Catherine Alexienna) expressed the
 utmost zeal for the Greek church, though a German
 likewise, and conformed assiduously to the manners
 and language of the Russians. She was a woman
 of a masculine disposition, sound understanding, and
 great ambition. Her penetration was deep and her per-
 severance astonishing. While she thus endeavoured
 to court the favour of the Russians, her obstinate
 husband observed no rules of prudence or moderation.

either in his public proceedings or in his private conduct. He had offended the clergy, a numerous, powerful, and popular body, by attacking their beards, which Peter the Great had attempted to demolish in vain. Also by changing and diminishing their revenues and ecclesiastical and religious rites. The Russian grandees were offended at his partiality to the Prince of Holstein and the Germans. He had shocked all orders of the nation by his sudden and precipitate change of the political system which had been pursued by his predecessor, and by his blind zeal and unbounded affection for the King of Prussia, whom he took for his infallible guide in religion, politics, music, war, &c. Besides all these his private intrigues with one of the nieces of Chancellor Woronzoff, whom it is said he loved *as well as he could*, gave umbrage to the Empress, whom he had never loved to much purpose, and it was even supposed that he had formed the design of shutting up her Majesty in a cloister, and of raising the Countess of Woronzoff to the dignity of Empress. Indeed it was said, that the Empress was actually confined to her chamber at Peterhof, when, by the means of some officers, who received notice of the plots that were forming against her, she made her escape. — Be that as it may, the revolution which was for some time in agitation, now took place. The Hetman, the Chamberlain Teplow, the At-
torney

torney General Glebon, and the Baron Orlov, Major of the guards, were the persons more immediately concerned in the execution of the project that removed this unfortunate Czar from the Imperial throne. In order to evade detection, each leader in the conspiracy, had an able spy always near him, that if one should be seized, timely notice might be given to the rest: this precaution was attended with the desired success, for M. Cassick, Lieutenant in the Probazenski guards, was taken into custody, July 8, through the imprudence of one of his men; but the spy, whom he appointed, having fulfilled his duty and apprized the confederates of their danger, they put their plan into immediate execution, and desired Princess Datchkow, at whose house the meetings were held, to dispatch a post-chaise for the Empress. In the mean time, much art was used to inflame the people; large bills were posted up in every corner of the streets, and throughout all public places, setting forth the disgrace of the clergy—the grievances of the people in order to promote the happiness of *strangers*, and the depopulation of the country by *unnecessary* wars. While the people were employed in perusing these papers, Catherine, in obedience to the summons, arrived early in the morning to Petersburg, in a careless undress, with all the marks of hurry and precipitation about her—and

having assembled the troops, she caused herself to be proclaimed Empress of Russia. She met the clergy in the cathedral, addressed herself to them, obtained their approbation of the step she had taken, and administered to them and the Russian Grantees, the oath of allegiance. After this, she harangued the guards and the garrison, whom she found disposed to second her designs, and cloathing herself in the uniform of that regiment, she put herself at the head of 15,000 men, with the bold determination of seizing the person of her husband.

Peter had arrived at the palace about noon, with an intention to dine there, and was much surprised at not meeting with his wife : being informed of her departure for Petersburgh, he sent messengers, one after the other to know the cause, but they were all severally stopped and detained. At length he was told, what was going on in the city by some grenadiers, who disguised as peasants, had found means to escape ; whereupon he embarked in one of the Imperial yachts for Oraniebaum, which is situated on the shore of the Gulph of Finland, hoping to reach the fortress of Cronstadt, which is nearly opposite, where he would have been secure—but this design was prevented by Catharine's precaution, an army having been provided there to prevent his approach, and who threatened to
sink

sink him, if he did not keep off, though their guns, as afterwards reported, were not loaded. Being accompanied with several ladies in the yacht, their terrors added to his own, made him decline all attempts to land, and he accordingly returned with them to Oraniebaum.

Catherine had now secured the Prince of Holstein, the Senator Woronzoff, the Countess his daughter, (whom the Emperor loved) the Adjutant Gudowitz, who was Peter's principal favourite, and the Cabinet Secretary Walkow, with several others. She then proceeded for Petershof about six in the evening, at the head of her army—and in the palace of Petershof, there is at this present day, a painting of our heroine, as she appeared on this occasion, booted, and sitting astride a white horse, with an oak bough in her hat, the insignia of her adherents. On her arrival, she sent a strong guard to Oraniebaum, where the Emperor was—The officer who commanded this detachment was commissioned to ask him, “Whether or no he would abdicate the
“ empire by a solemn deed signed by his own
“ hand?” At first he hesitated; but seeing himself abandoned on all sides, and even by his own favourites, the Holstein Guards, he submitted to the demand of his wife, went into a coach, drove to Petershof, where he drew his sword, and gave it up

with all his dominions, into Catherine's hands. It is said, that he desired the three following conditions—first, security for his life; secondly, the enjoyments of his possessions at Holstein; and thirdly, the liberty of repairing thither with the Countess Woronzoff, which were all refused him. Peter, at this critical hour, was attended by the old field-martial Count Munich, who had been but lately recalled from his long exile in Siberia. This veteran advised him to meet Catherine with boldness, assuring him, that he would risque his life in his defence, and enjoining the guards on their allegiance to obey the Czar as their sovereign; but Peter lost all his courage, and bursting into tears, threw himself in a fit of despondency on the ground.

In a few hours this extraordinary revolution was effected, and that it might not be known where the deposed Prince was confined, several covered wag-gons (which were provided for the purpose) were dispatched through different roads at the same time. The following manifesto was immediately afterwards published, by the new and self-made Empress :

“ We Catharine II. by the Grace of God,
 “ Empress and Sovereign of all the Russias, mak-
 “ ing known these presents to all our loving sub-
 “ jects, ecclesiastical, military, and civil.

“ Our

“ Our accession to the Imperial throne of all the
 “ Russias, is a manifest proof of this truth, that
 “ when sincere hearts endeavour for good, the hand
 “ of God directs them. We never had either de-
 “ sign or desire to arrive at empire, through the
 “ means by which it hath pleased the Almighty, ac-
 “ cording to the inscrutable views of providence, to
 “ place us upon the throne of Russia, our dear
 “ country.

“ On the death of our most august and dear
 “ aunt, the Empress Elizabeth Petrowna, of glo-
 “ rious memory, all true patriots (now our most
 “ faithful subjects) groaning for the loss of so tender
 “ a mother, placed their only consolation in obey-
 “ ing her nephew, whom she had named for her
 “ successor, that they might shew thereby, in some
 “ degree, their acknowledgments to their deceased
 “ sovereign. And, although they soon found out
 “ the weakness of his mind, unfit to rule so vast an
 “ empire, they imagined he would have known his
 “ own insufficiency. Whereupon they sought our
 “ maternal assistance in the affairs of government.

“ But when absolute power falls to the lot of a
 “ monarch, who has not sufficient virtue and huma-
 “ nity to place just bounds to it, it degenerates into
 “ a fruitful source of the most pernicious evils. This

" is the sum, in short, of what our native country
 " has suffered. She struggled to be delivered
 " from a sovereign, who, being blindly given up
 " to the most dangerous passions, thought of nothing
 " but indulging them, without employing himself
 " in the welfare of the empire committed to his
 " care.

" During the time of his being Grand-Duke,
 " and heir to the throne of Russia, he often caused
 " the most bitter griefs to his most august aunt and
 " sovereign, (the truth of which all our court knows)
 " however he might behave himself outwardly ;
 " being kept under her eye by her tenderness, he
 " looked upon this affection towards him as an in-
 " supportable yoke. He could not, however, dis-
 " guise himself so well, but it was perceived by all
 " our faithful subjects, that he was possessed of the
 " most audacious ingratitude, which he some times
 " shewed by personal contempt, some times by an
 " avowed hatred to the nation. At length, throw-
 " ing aside his cloak of hypocrisy, he thought it
 " more fit to let loose the bridle of his passions,
 " than conduct himself as the heir of so great an
 " empire. In a word, the least traces of honour
 " were not to be perceived in him. What were the
 " consequences of all this?

" He

" He was scarcely assured that the death of his
 " aunt and benefactress approached, but he banished
 " her memory entirely from his mind ; nay, even
 " before she had sent forth her last groan. He only
 " cast an eye of contempt on the corpse exposed on
 " the bier ; and as the ceremony at that time re-
 " quired, obliged him to approach it, he did it
 " with his eyes manifestly replete with joy ; even
 " intimating his ingratitude by his words. I might
 " add, that the obsequies would have been nothing
 " equal to the dignity of so great and magnanimous
 " a sovereign, if our tender respect for her, ce-
 " mented by the ties of blood, and the extreme af-
 " fection between us, had not made the care of it
 " a duty to us.

" He imagined that it was not to the supreme be-
 " ing, but only to chance, that he was indebted for
 " absolute power, and that he had it in his hands,
 " not for the good of his subjects, but solely for his
 " satisfaction. Adding therefore, licence to abso-
 " lute power, he made all the changes in the state,
 " which the weakness of his mind could suggest to
 " the oppression of the people.

" Having effaced from his heart, even the least
 " traces to the whole orthodox religion (although he
 " had been sufficiently taught the principles there-
 " of)

“ of) he began first, by rooting out this true reli-
 “ gion, established so long in Russia, by absenting
 “ himself from the house of God, and of prayers,
 “ in so open a manner, that some of his subjects, ex-
 “ cited by conscience and honesty, seeing his irre-
 “ verence and contempt of the rites of the church,
 “ or rather the railleries he made of them, and scan-
 “ dalizing them by his behaviour, dared to make
 “ remonstrances to him concerning it; who, for so
 “ doing, scarcely escaped the resentment which they
 “ might have expected from so capricious a sove-
 “ reign, whose power was not limited by any hu-
 “ man laws. He even intended to destroy the
 “ churches, and ordered some to be pulled down.
 “ He permitted those to have chapels in their
 “ own houses, whose infirmities hindered them from
 “ visiting the house of God. Thus he would have
 “ domineered over the faithful, in endeavouring to
 “ stifle in them the fear of God, which the holy
 “ scripture teaches us to be the beginning of wis-
 “ dom.

“ From this want of zeal towards God, and con-
 “ tempt of his laws, resulted that scorn to the civil
 “ and natural laws of his kingdom; for, having but
 “ an only son, which God had given us, the Grand
 “ Duke Paul Petrowitz, he would not, when he as-
 “ cended the throne of Russia, declare him for his
 “ successor;

“ successor ; that being reserved for his caprice,
 “ which tended to the detriment of us and of our
 “ son, having an inclination to overthrow the right
 “ that his aunt had vested in him, and to make the
 “ government of our native country pass into the
 “ hands of strangers ; contradicting this maxim of
 “ natural right, according to which no body can
 “ transmit to another more than he has received
 “ himself.

“ Although with great grief we saw this inten-
 “ tion, we did not believe that we ourselves, and
 “ our most dear son, should have been exposed to
 “ a persecution so severe : but all persons of probi-
 “ ty, having observed that the measures that he
 “ pursued, by their effects, manifested that they had
 “ a natural tendency to our ruin, and that of our
 “ dear successor, their generous and pious hearts
 “ were justly alarmed : animated with zeal for the
 “ interest of their native country, and astonished at
 “ our patience under these heavy persecutions, they
 “ secretly informed us, that our life was in danger
 “ in order to engage us to undertake the burthen
 “ of governing so large an empire.

“ While the whole nation were on the point of
 “ testifying their disapprobation of his measures,
 “ he nevertheless continued to chagrine them the
 “ more,

“ more, by subverting all those excellent ar-
 “ rangements established by Peter the Great, our
 “ most dear predecessor, of glorious memory, which
 “ that true father of his country accomplished by
 “ indefatigable pains and labour, through the whole
 “ course of a reign of thirty years. The late Pe-
 “ ter the Third despised the laws of the empire,
 “ and her most respectable tribunals, to such a de-
 “ gree, that he could not even bear to hear them
 “ mentioned.

“ After one bloody war, he rashly entered upon
 “ another, in which the interests of Russia were no
 “ ways concerned. He entertained an insuperable
 “ aversion to the regiments of guards, which had
 “ faithfully served his illustrious ancestors, and
 “ made innovations in the army, which, far from
 “ exciting in their breasts noble sentiments of val-
 “ our, only served to discourage troops always
 “ ready to spill their best blood in the cause of their
 “ country. He changed entirely the face of the
 “ army; nay, it even seemed, that by dividing
 “ their habits into so many different uniforms, and
 “ giving them so many different embellishments,
 “ for the most part fantastical to the greatest de-
 “ gree, he intended to infuse into them a suspicion
 “ that they did not, in effect, belong to one master,
 “ and thereby provoke the soldiers, in the heat of
 “ battle,

“ battle, to slay one another ; although experience
 “ demonstrated, that uniformity in dress had not a
 “ little contributed towards unanimity.

“ Inconsiderately and incessantly bent on pernicious regulations, he so alienated the hearts of his
 “ subjects, that there was scarce a single person to be
 “ found in the nation who did not openly express
 “ his disapprobation, and was even desirous to take
 “ away his life : but the laws of God, which command
 “ sovereign princes to be respected, being
 “ deeply engraved on the hearts of our faithful subjects,
 “ restrained them, and engaged them to wait
 “ with patience, till the hand of God struck the important
 “ blow, and by his fall delivered an oppressed
 “ people. Under those circumstances, now laid
 “ before the impartial eyes of the public, it was in
 “ fact, impossible, but our soul should be troubled
 “ with those impending woes which threatened our
 “ native country, and with that persecution which
 “ we, and our most dear son, the heir of the Russian
 “ throne, unjustly suffered : being almost entirely
 “ excluded from the Imperial palace ; in such sort,
 “ that all who had any regard for us, or rather those
 “ who had courage enough to speak it (for we have
 “ not been able to find there is one person who is
 “ not devoted to our interest) by expressing their
 “ sentiments of respect due to us, as their Empress,
 “ endangered

“ endangered their life, or at least their fortune.
 “ In fine, the endeavours he made to ruin us, rose
 “ to such a pitch, that they broke out in public, and
 “ then charging us with being the cause of the
 “ murmurs, which his own imprudent measures
 “ occasioned, his resolution to take away our life
 “ openly appeared. But being informed of his
 “ purpose, by some of our most trusty subjects, who
 “ were determined to deliver their country, or pe-
 “ rish in the attempt, relying on the aid of the Al-
 “ mighty, we cheerfully exposed our person to dan-
 “ ger, with all that magnanimity which our native
 “ country had a right to expect, in return for her af-
 “ fection to us. After having invoked the Most
 “ High, and reposed our hope in the divine favour,
 “ we resolved also, either to sacrifice our life for
 “ our country, or save it from bloodshed and cala-
 “ mity. Scarcely had we taken this resolution, by
 “ the direction of favouring heaven, and declared
 “ our assent to the deputies of the empire, than the
 “ the orders of the State crowded to give us as-
 “ surances of their fidelity and submission.

“ It now remained for us, in pursuance of the
 “ love we bore our faithful subjects, to prevent the
 “ consequences which we apprehended, in case of
 “ the late Emperor’s inconsiderately placing his
 “ confidence in the imaginary power of the Holstein
 “ troops.

" troops, (for whose sake he stayed at Oraniebaum,
 " living in indolence, and abandoning the most
 " pressing exigencies of the state) and there occa-
 " sioning a carnage, to which our guards and other
 " regiments were ready to expose themselves, for
 " the sake of their native country, for ours, and that
 " of our successor. For these reasons we looked
 " upon it as a necessary duty towards our subjects
 " (to which we were immediately called by the
 " voice of God) to prevent so great a misfortune,
 " by prompt and proper measures. Therefore,
 " placing ourselves at the head of the body-guards,
 " regiment of artillery, and other troops in and
 " about the royal residence, we undertook to dis-
 " concert an iniquitous design, of which we were
 " as yet, only informed in part.

" But scarcely were we got out of the city, be-
 " fore we received two letters from the late Empe-
 " ror, one quick on the heels of the other. The
 " first by our Vice-chancellor the Prince Gallitzin,
 " entreating us to allow him to return to Holstein,
 " his native dominions; the other, by Major Gene-
 " ral Michel Ismaloff, by which he declared, that
 " of his own proper motion, he renounced the crown
 " and throne of Russia. In this last he begged
 " of us to allow him to withdraw to Holstein with
 " Elizabeth Worontzoff Goudwick. These two
 " letters,

“ letters, stuffed with flattering expressions, came
 “ to our hands a few hours after he had given orders
 “ for putting us to death, as we have been since in-
 “ formed from the very persons who were appoint-
 “ ed to execute those unnatural orders.

“ In the mean time, he had still resources left
 “ him, which were to arm against us his Holstein
 “ troops, and some small detachments then about
 “ his person; he had also, in his power, several
 “ personages of great distinction belonging to our
 “ court; as he might therefore have compelled us
 “ to agree to terms of accommodation, still more
 “ hurtful to our country, (for after having learned
 “ what great commotions there were among the
 “ people, he had detained them as hostages at his
 “ palace of Oraniebaum, and our humanity would
 “ never have consented to their destruction, but, to
 “ save their lives, we would have risked seeing a
 “ part of those dangers revived by an accommoda-
 “ tion) several persons of high rank about our per-
 “ son, requested us to send him a billet in return,
 “ proposing to him, if his intentions were such as
 “ he declared them to be, that he should instantly
 “ send us a voluntary and formal renunciation of
 “ the throne, wrote by his own hand, for the pub-
 “ lic satisfaction—Major General Ismatloff carried
 “ this

“ this proposal, and now behold the writing which
 “ he sent back :

[‘ During the short space of my absolute reign
 ‘ over the empire of Russia, I became sensible that
 ‘ I was not able to support so great a burden, and
 ‘ that my abilities were not equal to the task of go-
 ‘ vernal so great an empire, either as a sovereign
 ‘ or in any other capacity whatever. I also fore-
 ‘ saw, the great troubles which must have from
 ‘ thence arose, and have been followed with the to-
 ‘ tal ruin of the empire, and covered me with eter-
 ‘ nal disgrace. After having therefore seriously re-
 ‘ flected thereon, I declare, without constraint, and
 ‘ in the most solemn manner, to the Russian empire,
 ‘ and to the whole universe, that I for ever renounce
 ‘ the government of the said empire, never desiring
 ‘ hereafter to reign therein, either as an absolute so-
 ‘ vereign, or under any other form of government ;
 ‘ never wishing to aspire thereto, to use any means,
 ‘ of any sort, for that purpose. As a pledge of
 ‘ which, I swear sincerely before God and all the
 ‘ world, to this present renunciation, wrote and
 ‘ signed this 29th of June, 1762, O. S.

PETER. ’]

“ It is thus, without spilling one drop of blood,
 “ that we have ascended the Russian throne, by the
 “ assistance

“ assistance of God, and the approving suffrages of
 “ our dear country. Humbly adoring the decrees
 “ of divine providence, we assure our faithful sub-
 “ jects, that we shall not fail, by night and by day,
 “ to invoke the Most High to bless our sceptre, and
 “ enable us to wield it for the maintenance of our
 “ orthodox religion, the security and defence of our
 “ dear native country, and the support of justice ;
 “ as well as to put an end to all miseries, iniquities,
 “ and violences, by strengthening and fortifying
 “ our heart for the public good. And as we ar-
 “ dently wish to prove effectually how far we merit
 “ the reciprocal love of our people, for whose hap-
 “ piness we acknowledge our throne to be appoint-
 “ ed, we solemnly promise, on our Imperial word,
 “ to make such arrangements in the empire, that
 “ the government may be endued with an intrinsic
 “ force to support itself within limited and proper
 “ bounds ; and each department of the state pro-
 “ vided with wholesome laws and regulations, suf-
 “ ficient to maintain good order therein, at all
 “ times, and under all circumstances.

“ By which means we hope to establish hereaf-
 “ ter, the empire and our sovereign power, (how-
 “ ever they may have been formerly weakened) in
 “ such a manner as to comfort the discouraged
 “ hearts of all true patriots. We do not in the
 “ least

“ least doubt, but that our loving subjects will, as
 “ well for the salvation of their own souls, as for
 “ the good of religion, inviolably observe the oath
 “ which they had sworn to us in presence of the Al-
 “ mighty God, we thereupon assure them of our
 “ Imperial favour.

“ Dated at Petersburg, July 6, 1762.”

When the oath of allegiance was administered to Prince George of Holstein, he at first refused to take it, but at length complied, more through compulsion, than persuasion. The deposed Emperor being confined in a *secret* place, died in a few days after, on the 16th of June, in a *secret* manner. His sudden exit occasioned the following most *curious* and singular declaration on the part of her Imperial Majesty, which is here translated literally, that it may appear in its genuine colours:—

“ WE Catharine II. by the grace of God, Empress and Autocratress of all the Russias.—Greeting, &c.

“ The 7th day after our accession to the throne, of all the Russias, we received information, that the late Emperor Peter III. by the means of a bloody accident in his hinder parts, commonly called piles, to which he had been formerly subject,

' ject, obtained a most violent, griping, cholick.
 ' That therefore, we might not be wanting in
 ' christian duty, nor disobedient to the holy com-
 ' mandment by which we are obliged to preserve
 ' the life of our neighbour, we immediately or-
 ' dered, that the said Peter should be furnished with
 ' every thing that might be judged necessary to
 ' prevent the dangerous consequences of that acci-
 ' dent, and to restore his health by the succours of
 ' medicine. But to our great regret and affliction
 ' we learned yesterday evening, that by the permis-
 ' sion of the Almighty, the late Emperor departed
 ' this life. We have therefore ordered his body to
 ' be transported to the Monastery of Newsky, in
 ' order to its being buried there. At the same
 ' time, with our Imperial and motherly voice, we
 ' exhort our faithful subjects to forget and forgive
 ' what is past, to pay the last duties to his body,
 ' and to pray to God sincerely for the peace of his
 ' soul; beseeching them, however, at the same
 ' time, to consider this unexpected and sudden death
 ' as a special effect of the divine providence, whose
 ' decrees prepare for us, for our throne, and for
 ' our country, things only known to his holy will.'
Done at St. Petersburg, July 7, O. S. 18, N. S.

As a further proof that this unfortunate sovereign
 did not expire through violence, his body was ex-
 posed

posed for some days at the Monastery of Newski, dressed in the Holstein uniform, with boots and spurs.

CHAP. II.

Catherine's Care of her Son. — Invitation to M. D'Alembert to educate him. — Celebration of her Name-Day. — Apprehensions of the Ministers of France and Spain. — Distressed State of Poland. — A King elected. — The Empress's visit to Prince Ivan. — A Guard put upon him. — Mirowitz seizes the Governor of the Fortress. — The Prince murdered. — His Body exposed. — The Empress affects great Concern. — Execution of Mirowitz. — Catherine's Manifesto. — Remarks thereon.

THE Empress had now one son and daughter, and in order to educate the former (the Grand Duke of Russia) she invited M. D'Alembert of Paris, to come and settle in her dominions—on his declining the invitation, she sent him the following letter, dated Moscow, Nov. 13, 1762.

C

“ M. D'Alembert

“ M. D'Alembert,

“ I have just received the answer you wrote to Mr. Odar, in which you refuse to transplant yourself to assist in the education of my son. I easily conceive, that it costs a philosopher, like you, nothing, to despise what the world calls grandeur and honour—these in your eyes are very little, and I can readily agree with you that they are so. Considering things in this light, there would be nothing great in the behaviour of Queen Christina [of Sweden] which hath been so highly extolled, and often censured with more justice. But to be born and called to contribute to the happiness and even the instruction of a whole nation, and yet decline it, is in my opinion, refusing to do that good, which you wish to do. Your philosophy is founded in a love to mankind; permit me then to tell you, that to refuse to save mankind, whilst it is in your power, is to miss your aim. I know you too well to be a good man, to ascribe your refusal to vanity. I know that the sole motive of it, is, the love of ease and leisure to cultivate letters, and the friendship of those you esteem. But what is there in this obligation? Come with all your friends: I promise both them and you every conveniency and advantage that depend upon me, and perhaps you will find more liberty and ease here, than in your native country. You refused the invitation of the King

of

of Prussia, notwithstanding your obligations to him: but that Prince has no son. || I own to you, that I have the education of my son so much at heart, that perhaps I press you with too much earnestness. Excuse my indiscretion for the sake of the occasion of it, and be assured, that it is my esteem for you that makes me so urgent.

CATHERINE.

“ In this whole letter I have argued only from what I have found in your writings: you would not contradict yourself,”

The first winter after her accession, Catherine resided at Moscow, where the Ministers of foreign courts received audience, and where her Majesty's Name-day was celebrated on the 4th of December with extraordinary magnificence. On this occasion the Empress appeared in the uniform of her guards. The Earl of Buckinghamshire and Count Murray were the only foreign Ambassadors who had the honour of supping at her own table; a separate table being provided for the rest, and at the same time a note was distributed, importing that the title of IMPERIAL being annexed to the crown of Russia, her Majesty could hold no correspondence with those powers who should withhold from her that title; this gave umbrage to the Ministers of France

and Spain, who being zealous for the honour of their respective courts, were apprehensive of the precedence of their Ambassadors being affected by this claim at foreign courts.

Poland, we find at this time in a distracted state. After the death of Augustus, a diet was summoned to deliberate on the election of a new King: many powers were interested therein, which threatened a remarkable disturbance to the public tranquillity. Besides the foreign interests concerned in the election of a King, there also subsided so many strong domestic factions, with so many opportunities to act, that dangerous convulsions were dreaded, both within and without the kingdom. The great political division was upon the preference of a *native* or a *foreigner*—the former choice was supported by Austria, France, and Spain, as connected with the house of Saxony; and the latter by Muscovy, Prussia, and Turkey. Count Poniatowski (of the illustrious family of that name) had united these last mentioned great Potentates in his favour. He met with no small opposition, however within the kingdom: the great house of Redzivil and Count Branitzki, declared and acted with great violence against him; but notwithstanding these enemies, he had a party in his favour, nearly related to the family of Czartozinski. He was at length elected
King,

King, chiefly by the influence of Russia, who crushed all the hostile attempts of Prince Redzivil and Count Branitzki, and totally defeated their struggles. But whilst the Empress of Russia was thus employed abroad in disposing of crowns, she was equally assiduous at home in securing her own.

During the summer of 1764, an event happened, which, from the circumstances attending it, forms no inconsiderable incident in the present reign. As her Imperial Majesty came to the throne in so extraordinary a manner, apprehension which frequently attends ambition, prompted her to take every step to secure her safety. Prince Ivan, already mentioned in this work, who had been both proclaimed and deposed, while in his cradle, was, though most people were wholly ignorant of him, still living——The royal prisoner was a thorn in Catherine's breast, and during his life, her new government seemed unsettled——Though her predecessor Elizabeth, with true magnanimity, had permitted the *child* to live who had worn her crown; Catherine dreaded a rival, now that he was a *man*! She pretended to have paid him a visit through benevolence, and reported him to be defective in reason, sense and utterance. Out of *compassion* she ordered a double guard to be placed over his prison under the command of two trusty officers, and with strict

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injunctions,

injunctions, *that none should approach him.* Under this guard he remained in the Castle or Fortrefs of Schluffelburgh—not far from Petersburg——

Prince Ivan was now arrived to his twenty-fourth year, and his incapacity, as reported, was not universally believed. His fate however, drew near; but so extremely mysterious and unaccountable in many particulars, according to the Empress's story, that many insinuations have been made, not much to her credit. We are told that Mirowitz, a second lieutenant in the regiment of Smolensko, formed a design of setting this Prince at liberty, and of putting him at the head of a party. For this purpose, he tampered with some of the soldiers of the garrison of Schluffelburgh, whom he gained over to his project. He then desired to be put on guard, though out of his turn, which extraordinary step seemed to have excited no suspicions in a governor, though intrusted with so very important and critical a charge. Having obtained his request, and every thing being prepared for the attempt, at two in the morning he suddenly called up the main guard, and having formed it into a line, and ordered the soldiers to load with ball, wounded and secured Berenckoff, governor of the fortrefs. Mirowitz then, it is pretended, advanced furiously at the head of his troop, and attacked the soldiers who

who guarded Prince Ivan—but being spiritedly repulsed, as it is further pretended, the rebels were obliged to retire, though (strange to tell) not a single man was killed, nor even slightly wounded. Mirowitz now ordered a piece of cannon to be brought from the ramparts, and they prepared to batter the place. The commanders of the guard which was set on the unfortunate Prince, on seeing this formidable preparative, thought it expedient to take counsel together—and deeming it impossible to resist such a superior force *as that which they had lately beaten off*, they came to the dreadful resolution of assassinating their royal prisoner, *over whose life they were to watch*, and it was said by some who were supposed to be informed in this dark transaction, that Prince Ivan was asleep in his bed when the captain of the guard entered his chamber. The first blow was but slight, and served only to rouse him from his sleep. Attacked in this sudden manner, and wholly unprepared for defence, he, notwithstanding (*and great a fool as he was*), made a vigorous struggle for life, and even broke the sword of the assassin; but another coming to the assistance of the former, they soon overpowered him, and laid this unfortunate Prince dead at their feet.

When they had perpetrated this horrid murder,

they took the body reeking with blood, and pierced with ten stabs, and threw it down before the conspirators, saying, "There is your Emperor—Now let him head you,"

The sequel of this tragedy is somewhat extraordinary—the murder of the Prince, and exposure of his body, excited none of the conspirators to revenge. They who were so courageous before, betrayed cowardice now. Neither Mirowitz nor his associates endeavoured to save themselves by flight, but all, with the utmost calmness surrendered themselves captives to the governor, *who at this very time was their prisoner.*

When the news of this tragical event was brought to her Imperial Majesty, she pretended to be exceedingly affected, and took remarkable pains to clear herself from all suspicion of having the least share in it. The trial of the conspirators was remitted to the Senate. They condemned Mirowitz to death, and presented an animated address to her Imperial Majesty, entreating her to have speedy and exemplary justice executed on this offender, and not to consider him in any respect an object of pity. But powerful intercession was made in his behalf, and the following remarkable answer was sent by Catherine to the Senate—"That it was
their

their business to judge according to the evidence before them, but that it was her prerogative to decide, whether or no that judgment was to be executed with rigour, or to be tempered by mercy." However, Mirowitz was publicly executed pursuant to his sentence, (September 26) and suffered with great intrepidity. He was beheaded, and his body buried with the scaffold. The whole trial was printed and published on the day of the execution. The inferior actors in this design, did not suffer death, but were otherwise punished. The officers who put the Prince to death, were, for their *great fidelity*, AMPLY REWARDED! A manifesto appeared by authority, giving this strange story in the following manner:

" Catherine the Second, by the grace of God,
 " Empress and Sovereign of all Russia, &c. &c. to
 " all whom these presents may concern :-

" When by the divine will, and in compliance
 " with the ardent and unanimous desires of our
 " faithful subjects, we ascended the throne of Russia, we were not ignorant that Ivan, son of Anthony, Prince of Brunswick Wolfenbuttle, and the
 " Princess Anne of Mecklenburgh, was still alive.
 " This prince, as it is well known, was immediately
 " after his birth unlawfully declared heir to the

“ Imperial Crown of Russia ; but, by the decrees
 “ of Providence, he was soon after irrevocably ex-
 “ cluded from that high dignity, and the sceptre
 “ placed in the hands of the lawful heirefs Eliza-
 “ beth, daughter of Peter the Great, our beloved
 “ aunt of glorious memory. After we had ascended
 “ the throne, and offered up to Heaven our just
 “ thanksgivings, the first object that employed our
 “ thoughts, in consequence of that humanity that
 “ is natural to us, was the unhappy situation of
 “ that Prince, who was dethroned by the divine
 “ Providence, and had been unfortunate ever since
 “ his birth, and we formed the resolution of allevi-
 “ ating his misfortunes, as far as was possible. We
 “ immediately made a visit to him, in order to
 “ judge of his understanding and talents, and in
 “ consequence thereof, to procure him an agreeable
 “ and quiet situation, suitable to his character, and
 “ the education he had received : but how great
 “ was our surprise ! when, besides a defect in his
 “ utterance, that was uneasy to himself, and render-
 “ ed his discourse almost unintelligible to others,
 “ we observed in him a total privation of sense and
 “ reason. Those who accompanied us during this
 “ interview, saw how much our hearts suffered at
 “ the view of an object so proper to excite com-
 “ passion : they were also convinced, that the only
 “ measure we could take to succour the unfortunate
 “ Prince,

“ Prince, was to leave him where we found him,
 “ and to procure him all the comforts and conve-
 “ niences that his situation would admit of. We
 “ accordingly gave our orders for this purpose,
 “ though the state he was in prevented his per-
 “ ceiving the marks of our humanity, or being
 “ sensible of our attention and care; for he knew
 “ nobody, could not distinguish between good and
 “ evil, nor did he know the use that might be made
 “ of reading, to pass the time with less weariness
 “ and disgust: on the contrary, he sought after
 “ pleasure in objects that discovered, with sufficient
 “ evidence, the disorder of his imagination.

“ To prevent, therefore, ill-intentioned persons
 “ from giving him any trouble, or from making use
 “ of his name or orders to disturb the public tran-
 “ quility, we gave him a guard, and placed about
 “ his person, two officers of the garrison, in whose
 “ fidelity and integrity we could confide. The of-
 “ ficers were Captain Wlassseiff and Lieutenant
 “ Ischekin, who, by their long military services,
 “ which had considerably impaired their health, de-
 “ served a suitable recompence, and a station in
 “ which they might pass quietly the rest of their
 “ days: they were accordingly charged with the
 “ care of the Prince, and were strictly enjoined to
 “ let none approach him. Yet all these precau-

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tions

" tions were not sufficient to prevent an abandoned
 " profligate from committing at Schlüsselburgh,
 " with unparalleled wickedness, and at the risk of
 " his own life, an outrage, whose enormity inspires
 " horror. A second lieutenant of the regiment of
 " Smolensko, a native of the Ukraine, named Basil
 " Mirowitz, grandson of the first rebel that followed
 " Mazeppa, and a man in whom the perjury of his
 " ancestors seems to have been infused with their
 " blood : this profligate having passed his days in
 " debauchery and dissipation, and being thus de-
 " prived of all honourable means of advancing his
 " fortune ; having also lost sight of what he owed
 " to the love of God, and of the oath of allegi-
 " ance he had taken to us, and knowing Prince
 " Ivan only by name, without any knowledge ei-
 " ther of his bodily or mental qualities, took it into
 " his head to make use of this Prince to advance
 " his fortune at all events, without being restrained
 " by a consideration of the bloody scene that such
 " an attempt was adapted to occasion. In order
 " to execute this detestable, dangerous, and despe-
 " rate project, he desired, during our absence in
 " Livonia, to be upon guard, out of his turn, in
 " the fortress of Schluffelburg, where the guard is
 " relieved every eight days, and the 15th of last
 " month, about two o'clock in the morning, he, all
 " of a sudden, called up the main-guard, formed it
 " into

“ into a line, and ordered the soldiers to load with
 “ ball. Berenckoff, governor of the fortress, hav-
 “ ing heard a noise, came out of his apartments, and
 “ asked Mirowitz the reason of this disturbance,
 “ but received no other answer from this rebel than
 “ a blow on the head with the butt end of his mus-
 “ ket. Mirowitz having wounded and arrested
 “ the governor, led on his troop with fury, and at-
 “ tacked with fire-arms the handful of soldiers that
 “ guarded Prince Ivan. But he was so warmly re-
 “ ceived by those soldiers under the command of
 “ the two officers mentioned above, that he was ob-
 “ liged to retire. By a particular direction of that
 “ Providence, that watches over the life of man,
 “ there was that night a thick mist, which, toge-
 “ ther with the inward form and situation of the
 “ fortress, had this happy effect, that not one indi-
 “ vidual was either killed or wounded. The bad
 “ success of this first attempt, could not engage
 “ this enemy of the public peace to desist from his
 “ rebellious purpose. Driven out by rage and de-
 “ spair, he ordered a piece of cannon to be brought
 “ from one of the bastions, which order was imme-
 “ diately executed. Captain Wlassseiff and his
 “ lieutenant Ischekin, seeing that it was impossible
 “ to resist such a superior force, and considering the
 “ unhappy consequences that must ensue from the
 “ deliverance of a person that was committed to
 “ their

" their care, and the effusion of innocent blood that
 " must follow, from the tumults it was adapted to
 " excite, took, after deliberating together, the only
 " step that they thought proper to maintain the
 " public tranquility which was to cut short the days
 " of the unfortunate Prince. Considering also,
 " that if they set at liberty a prisoner whom this
 " desperate party endeavoured to force with such
 " violence out of their hands, they ran the risk of
 " being punished according to the rigour of the
 " laws; they assassinated the Prince, without be-
 " ing restrained by the apprehension of being put
 " to death by a villain reduced to despair. The
 " monster, (Mirowitz) seeing the dead body of
 " the Prince, was so confounded and struck at a
 " fight he so little expected, that he acknowledged
 " the very instant, his temerity and his guilt, and
 " discovered his repentance to the troop, which
 " about an hour before he had seduced from their
 " duty, and rendered the accomplices of his
 " crime.

" Then it was, that the two officers who had
 " nipt this rebellion in the bud, joined with the go-
 " vernor of the fortress, in securing the person of
 " this rebel, and in bringing back the soldiers to
 " their duty. They also sent to our Privy Counsel-
 " lor Panin, under whose orders, they acted a rela-
 " tion

" tion of this event, which, though unhappy, has
 " nevertheless, under the protection of Heaven,
 " been the occasion of preventing still greater ca-
 " lamities. This Senator dispatched immediately
 " Lieutenant-colonel Caschkin, with sufficient in-
 " structions to maintain the public tranquillity—to
 " prevent disorder on the spot, (i. e. where the as-
 " sassination was committed) and sent us at the
 " same time, a courier with a circumstantial ac-
 " count of the whole affair. In consequence of
 " this, We order Lieutenant-general Weymarn, of
 " the division of St. Petersburg, to take the ne-
 " cessary informations upon the spot; this he has
 " done, and has sent us, accordingly, the interro-
 " gatories, depositions, and the confession of the
 " villain himself, who has acknowledged his
 " crime.

" Sensible of the enormity of his crime, and of
 " its consequences with regard to the peace of our
 " country, We have referred the whole affair to
 " the consideration of our Senate, which we have
 " ordered, jointly with the Synod, to invite the
 " three first classes, and the Presidents of all the
 " Colleges, to hear the verbal relation of General
 " Weymarn, who has taken the proper informa-
 " tions, to pronounce sentence in consequence
 " thereof, and after that sentence has been signed,
 " to

“ to present it to us for our confirmation of the
 “ same.

“ The original is signed by her Imperial Ma-
 “ jesty’s own hand.

“ CATHERINE.”

This laboured manifesto occasioned much scrutiny among the impartial—it was thought by some; that Mirowitz, instead of being the designing villain himself, was rather the unfortunate tool of villainy—it was however deemed necessary, that he should suffer, in order to fix the guilt upon him. The more this affair was considered, the more mysterious it appeared, and that strong doubts were entertained of the *fidelity* and *integrity* of those whom her Majesty applauded, appear from a publication (soon afterwards suppressed) at Hamburg, entitled.

“ INNOCENCE OPPRESSED,

O R

THE DEATH OF IVAN,
 EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

A TRAGEDY, BY J. E. TALLON,
 Dedicated to the BARON DE LIEBENSLEIN.

At

At the request of the Russian Minister, the magistrates of Hamburgh made some search for the author and printer of this play—but perhaps it was deemed prudent afterwards to forbear enquiry.

—Strongly affected as her Majesty pretended to be at this bloody deed, her mourning cast no *gloom* over her palace—mirth, as usual abounded, and this year there was a most magnificent theatrical entertainment at the court of Petersburg, at which the actors, dancers, singers, and musicians, to the number of 100, were all persons of distinction. The Prince of Anhalt, a relation of her Imperial Majesty, was present, and the Duke and Prince of Courland were among the dancers.

CHAP.

C H A P. III.

Catherines's policy.—Purchases the Library of Monsieur Diderot, &c.—Changes the punishment of adultery.—Her Gifts.—Motives.—Wit.—A Lady petitions with success for her husband's enlargement.—Treaties.—A Carousal.—Tumults in Poland.—Affair of the Dissidents.—Her Majesty takes an active part therein.—Violent debates.—Conduct of the King of Poland.—A declaration signed by the Empress.—Arrival of Prince Redzivil.—The Russian troops carry off some Grandees prisoners.—Fruitless applications for their enlargement.—The Empress's Reply.—Matters adjusted.

CATHERINE was still assiduous in courting the favour of her subjects; though a foreigner herself, she wisely dismissed all foreigners from her service and confidence. She sent away the Holstien Guards, and chose Russians in their stead: she restored to the Clergy their revenues, and what to them was of more importance, the privilege of wearing beards: she conferred all the great offices of state on native Russians, and threw herself wholly on the affections of the people to whom she owed her elevation.

Monseigneur Diderot, so well known for his share in the Encyclopedie, and several other excellent pro-

productions, had, it seems, formed an intention of parting with his collection of books ; which, being extremely curious and well-chosen, was valued at several thousand livres ; but no purchaser offering in France, a friend of Monsieur Diderot took occasion to mention the intended disposal of this library to a correspondent in Russia. By these means it came to the knowledge of the Empress, who was no sooner apprized of it, than she desired to become the purchaser, offering a thousand livres more than the sum at which the collection was rated, and insisting on M. Diderot's further acceptance of an annual salary as her Librarian ! in which character she directed that he should still retain the books in his custody.

This Princess likewise bought the exquisite collection of pictures at Houghton, which, to the disgrace of government, were permitted to go out of the country. What an invaluable acquisition would they have been to the Royal Academy, which has not a single foreign picture to shew to its students as a model for any branch of this art. The Houghton pictures were sold for less than forty thousand pounds, which was given for them by a Princess, who was not supposed to have much liking or taste for art, and who in that respect, perhaps, consulted only the magnificence of her dignity,

nity, and the honour and improvement of the country. In the midst of her expensive war with the Turks, she purchased of Gregory Siffra, a Greek, one of the richest diamonds in the world, to adorn the Imperial Crown; it weighed 779 carats, and cost 100,000 rix-dollars: she also had some splendid carriages of Mr. Hatchet, who was coach-maker to her Imperial Majesty. In the beginning of 1765, she founded an Orphan House in Moscow, which portioned out 25 couple that had been brought up in it, giving each of them 60 rubles. With the same view of encreasing population, she changed the punishment of adultery from a severe punishment (being formerly burying alive up to the waist) to an ordinary fine. To the Royal Academy of Sciences, established at Petersburg, she also assigned for its maintenance an annual pension of sixty thousand rubles, two thousand of which were to be paid yearly to Count Beizkoi, President of the Academy; one thousand to each Regent, and seven hundred to each Professor: she likewise made a present of a considerable sum to a society lately instituted at the same place, for the advancement of agriculture, and some short time before assisted in person (accompanied by the Grand Duke) at an assembly held by the Academy of Polite Arts.

All the Empress's gifts and humane actions, may justly be attributed to political views, for she let no opportunity slip of improving that popularity which she had acquired and of which she frequently availed herself to gratify ambition. This ambition also bordered upon vanity, for she was ever desirous of appearing a literary character, and it must be acknowledged (as her letters themselves prove) that her learning was extensive:—she was possessed of a ready wit, and was never backward in exercising it. One night at supper, during the rage for Charades, being sadly worried by the attempts of the company to make them, “ Well then,” said she, “ I will try my hand at this nonsense: Do tell me what this is—

“ Mon premier est un Creux,

“ Mon second est un Creux,

“ Mon tout ensemble est un Creux.”

So the company thought, and there was an end of the business.

As an instance of her humanity, we are told that one day as she was walking in the garden belonging to one of her summer palaces at Petersburg, a distressed female presented herself before her Majesty, imploring forgiveness for her untimely intrusion, at the same time presenting a petition in
behalf

behalf of a husband, who was imprisoned for using some levities in a publication on the Government, and some strictures on the Imperial Catharine, at which she looked and read attentively :

“ Well, Madam, I see your husband is a true
 “ penitent—your request shall be granted on con-
 “ sideration that he never shall reflect on the Rus-
 “ sian Government, else Siberia shall be his des-
 “ tiny. As to his asperity on my own character,
 “ I freely forgive him, for that will be the work
 “ of many men of talents in Europe, after my
 “ decease, who may be as wide of the mark of
 “ truth as your husband has been; but it will be
 “ a work for the needy, and those who may pre-
 “ tend to know my secrets, which are only my
 “ own. Let them, however, say what they will,
 “ I always had the love of my People before me—
 “ Go about your business, and wait upon my
 “ Chancellor, and desire him to wait upon me im-
 “ mediately.”

The lady fainted with joy, the Empress was helping her when the Chancellor entered the garden upon state business, where the pardon was made out much against the remonstrance of the Chancellor.

In 1766, she concluded a Treaty of Commerce with England, where a bill was consequently passed for regulating the duties on the importation of Russia linen. Another was also concluded between her Imperial Majesty and the Emperor of Germany, for reciprocally guaranteeing their respective dominions against the common enemy of Christendom. The Marquis de Bauffet likewise obtained of the Russian Court the establishment of a French factory at Archangel, from which great commercial advantages were expected.

The same year, about summer, a carousal was celebrated at Petersburg, which gave such universal pleasure and satisfaction, that it was afterwards repeated. In the amphitheatre, built for this purpose, were two superb boxes for the Empress, and the Grand Duke, and in the centre of the Arena was raised a throne, whereon sat the Grand Judge of the Exercises, surrounded by forty officers, four heralds at arms, and two trumpets, to give signals. There were besides at four different places equally distant from the Circus, kettle drums and trumpets, whose warlike music was heard during the whole time of the carousal. The four quadrilles (i. e. troops of horse at a carousal or tournament,) representing four different nations, viz. the Slavonian, the Turkish, the Indian, and the

the Roman, perfectly observed the customs of those nations in their dress and ornaments, in their chariots, music, &c. and they were all, especially the eight Ladies, covered with gold and silver, and precious stones; but that of the Romans, which was conducted by Count Gregory Orloff, was the most brilliant. The dress of Count Alexis Orloff, chief of that of the Turks, was greatly admired. The four Quadrilles passed in great pomp through the principal streets of the city, before they repaired to the Circus. When the carousal was over, and the company were returned to the palace, Marshal Count Munich distributed the prizes, which were obtained by three Ladies, and six Chevaliers, and the richest of which was valued at 5000 rubles. After this, there was a splendid supper, and the desert admirably represented the circus wherein the carousal was performed. All the Imperial garden was illuminated, and the festival terminated with a masquerade, which continued till day-light the next morning.

At this time the Court of Russia became the asylum of the sciences, and learned men were invited from every part of Europe; among whom was the celebrated professor Euler, from Berlin: her Imperial Majesty settled on him a large annual stipend, and made him a present of a house among
many

many other marks of her royal favor and protection.

Poland, notwithstanding the election of a King had been made, continued still a scene of confusion, of which, on account of its connexion with Russia, it is necessary to take a cursory view.

The Dissidents, by which name are distinguished the members of the Greek and reformed churches in that country, having laboured under divers oppressions and discouragements, applied to the great powers, who were guarantees of the Treaty of Oliva, to use their mediation with the King and Republic in their favour. In consequence of these applications, the Courts of Petersburg, Berlin, Great Britain, and Denmark, presented memorials strongly in their favour, to be laid before the Diet at its opening. By the Treaty of Oliva, the Dissidents, who were a numerous body in that kingdom, were to be secured in their free exercise of their religious rites, and in the possession of all such privileges, as they had enjoyed before that time. In the changes which had happened in that so often unsettled kingdom, various constitutions, according to the tempers of the times, had been passed against the Dissidents, which had been more or less enforced in proportion, as the same temper happened

to be violent or moderate. The mediating powers wanted to go back to the spirit of the treaty without any regard to those intermediate constitutions, which were not only in direct violation of it, but had been made in troublesome and unsettled times: while, on the other hand the Poles insisted on the strict observance of their laws of which the constitutions were now a part.

The memorials were far from producing the desired effect: on the opening of the Diet, the Bishop of Cracow declared in an inflammatory speech, "That the first point of the *Pacta Conventa*, ordains the maintenance of the Catholic religion: that according to the law of the kingdom, nothing could be granted to the Dissidents; not even the toleration of their worship; and that they had violated the laws of the Republic, by applying to foreign powers for protection." He then read a plan for a law, enjoining that the Republic should never grant to the Dissidents any other privileges than what they then enjoyed, and demanded whether the two chambers unanimously agreed thereto? The States answered him by a general acclamation; but the King found means to suspend the execution of this plan, and had it deferred till it should come in due course, along with the other new laws that were to be proposed to the Diet.

In the mean time some Russian troops advanced within a few miles of Warsaw, and (Nov. 4, 1766) new declarations were made on the part of the mediating powers; but these steps, instead of modifying, served only to exasperate the Diet, which fell into violent heat and disorder; and many of the members demanded with great impetuosity, that the proposal of the Bishop of Wilna should be signed. The King, finding the members were in a great ferment, attempted to adjourn the session to another day, but not being able to accomplish it, his Majesty retired from the assembly. The Prince Primate was then pressed to continue the sessions, and the Marshal of the Diet went so far as to declare in the name of his party that he would not quit the palace till this affair was settled. This importunity induced the Prince Primate to retire likewise, upon which the Nuncios were so irritated, that they suddenly left the Senate, in order to go to their own palace of meeting, and finding the door locked, would have broken it open, if some of the Senators had not interposed, and moderated their fury.

In a few days after (Nov. 24) the proposal of the Bishop of Wilna was again read, and there was not a member of the assembly who dared or would oppose it; so that it was generally approved, and afterwards signed. By this decision, all the Consti-

tutions against the Dissidents were revived and confirmed.

Some time before this, a strong memorial was delivered, at the motion of the Bishop of Wilna to Prince Repnin, the Russian Ambassador, upon the subject of the Russian troops that had entered Poland, and to insist upon their immediate departure out of that kingdom. This memorial produced no manner of effect, and seemed to be very little attended to: on the contrary, it was said, that orders were given to quarter some of these troops on the estates of the Bishop of Wilna, and others, who were most remarkable for their violence in their proceedings against the Dissidents.

The last day of its sitting, (Nov. 29,) the Diet seemed to have recovered greatly from that heat and violence, with which it had been previously agitated. The affair of the Dissidents was again brought under consideration, on which they sat seventeen hours, and came to the following resolution:

“ We have received with all possible consideration, the declarations which the Ambassador of her Imperial Majesty of all the Russias, the Prince de Repnin; the Minister Plenipotentiary of his Majesty

jesty the King of Prussia, M. Benoits ; the English Minister, Mr. Wroughton ; and the Danish Minister, M. de St. Suffrein, have presented in writing on the part of their respective Sovereigns, in favour of the Greeks and Dissidents, in the kingdom of Poland and great duchy of Lithuania. We assure those Ministers, that we will fully maintain the said Dissidents in all the rights and prerogatives to which they are entitled by the laws of the country, particularly by the Constitution of the year 1717, &c. and by treaties. As to the griefs of the Dissidents in respect to the exercise of their religion, the college of the most Reverend Archbishops and Bishops, under the direction of the Prince Primate, will endeavour to remove those difficulties in a manner conformable to justice and neighbourly love. The regulation drawn on this subject, shall be insisted in the acts of the metrique, and from thence communicated to all those who shall require it. We charge the Chancellors of the two nations to report this resolution to the Ambassadors and Ministers above-mentioned."

The same day the Episcopal College signed nine articles, which were deposited among the archives in favour of the Greeks and Protestants : by these the Dissidents were allowed the free exercise of their worship in all the places where they

had been allowed by the laws to have churches : they were permitted to repair, or build these churches, but they were not to enlarge their extent : they were permitted to have burying-places, but no funeral ceremonies, except what the laws allowed : they were permitted to have Divine Service in their own houses where they had no churches, and the Greek priests had also leave to baptize, marry, and bury, provided they paid the established clergy their fees, &c. &c. This regulation was signed by all the prelates, except the Bishop of Wilna, who refused to do it, and the Bishops of Ermoland and Samogitia, who were not present at the assembly.

The situation of the King of Poland was now truly pitiable ; his answer to the Minister of Russia was remarkable—" I have not forgotten the obligations I am under to the Empress of Russia, among the means which God Almighty made use of to raise me to the throne ; but when I came to it, I promised the exact observation of my religion. If I was weak enough to abandon it, my life and my throne would be exposed to the just resentment of my subjects. I am threatened with forcible means to oblige me to do what is asked of me, which would reduce me to an extremity equally unhappy. I perceive danger in
 " what-

“ whatever resolution I may take ; but I had rather
 “ be exposed to such as my duty and honour induce
 “ me to make choice of; and from this time I join
 “ with my country in defence of our holy reli-
 “ gion.”

The evasive and pitiful promise made by the declaration, namely, that the Dissidents should be supported in their privileges, according to the Constitutions of 1717, 1736, and 1764, and that the Bishops should consider their religious griefs, was in fact an assurance, that the three violent and destructive laws, which at once struck at their rights, liberties, and safety, should be enforced to the utmost against them, and that their grievances should for the future be referred to their most implacable enemies. Such declaration, being both pitiful and evasive, could not succeed with the powers for whom it was intended. The Empress of Russia, as one of the nearest and most immediately concerned, was the first who shewed her disapprobation of it. In the mean time the Dissidents, being sensible that mildness and submission would only encrease their danger and hardships, under the present prevailing party, who sought their destruction to encrease their own strength, and perhaps with a view to unhinge every part of the Commonwealth; in situation began to form confederacies in the

different parts of the kingdom, for their mutual preservation and defence. Though their once numerous and boasted nobility were at present reduced to little more than two hundred families, exclusive of those in the duchy of Courland, yet they were animated to a bold attempt by a sense of the wrongs they had so long endured, the immediate injuries which they all experienced, and the total destruction which they believed was preparing for them. The first act of confederacy was entered into at Sluck (March 10,) by the nobles and citizens of the Greek Communion, and the two Evangelical Confessions in the great Duchy of Lithuania. This act was signed by a number of the nobility, who appointed Major-general Grabowski to be their Marshal, and a Council to assist him. About the same time, a confederacy was entered into at Thorn, by the nobility of the kingdom of Poland, who appointed Lieutenant-general Goltze to be Marshal of the confederacy, with a Council, consisting of twenty-four members to assist him. This act of confederacy was signed by three hundred and eight members, besides the Marshal. Many of the Catholics, urged by various discontents, joined in this confederacy. In some time after the three great cities of Thorn, Elbing, and Dantzick, published at Thorn an act of accession to this confederacy. Prince Repnin, Ambassador from Russia,

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presented a declaration to the King of Poland, signed by the Empress, by which she demanded that the Dissidents of Poland and Lethuania, be forthwith restored to the enjoyments of their ancient rights and privileges; and that in order to accomplish this, she found herself obliged to order 30,000 men to enter Poland, who should not leave the country till the Dissidents were put upon an equal footing with the other citizens. The Prussian Minister also delivered at this time a very strong declaration from his master to the King and the Republic, wherein he commented severely upon the declaration made by the Diet to the foreign Ministers, and expressed great dissatisfaction at the contradiction, duplicity, and injustice to the Dissidents, which were couched in the very terms of it. He complained of the little attention that was paid to his friendly representations upon the subject, declared his approbation of the confederacy, and his intention to coincide with the Empress of Russia, in protecting it, and procuring justice for the Dissidents. The confederacy was further encouraged by the declarations of England, Sweden, and Denmark, but Russia took the most active part.

The example the Dissidents had given of entering into a confederacy, was soon followed by the generality of the Roman Catholic nobility through-

out the kingdom; so that there were twenty-four Confederacies formed in the great Duchy of Lithuania only. As these confederacies were formed in opposition to some political innovations, they were distinguished from the Dissidents by the appellation of Malecontents. Every one of the Confederacies had a clause inserted in their articles, whereby they acknowledged the justice of the claims made by the Dissidents, and declared their resolution to have them re-instated in their rights and immunities. Strict order was preserved throughout the kingdom, in the midst of all these commotions.

While affairs were in this situation, Prince Charles de Radzivil, remarkable for the part he acted in opposition to the election of the King of Poland, for which he was obliged to quit his native country, and have his estates laid under sequestration, now arrived in Poland, was received by the people with great joy, and immediately declared, with great powers, Marshal of the General Confederacy of Malecontents. This Prince assumed all the state and dignity of a sovereign; he published an universalia, wherein he declared, that all those who did not adhere to the General Confederacy should be treated as enemies to their country. Among other extraordinary acts, he prescribed a
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new oath of fidelity to the King, and to the General Confederacy, wherein, along with the security of the Roman Catholic religion, the rights of the Dissidents were included. This oath, the officers of the civil and military departments, were obliged to take, or lose their places. The new Prince Primate took it voluntarily; also, some of the other Bishops, but several great officers resigned their places in preference.

The King of Poland, hitherto a silent spectator, gave an audience to Prince Radzivil, which continued only for a few minutes, during which he discovered much coolness, and commanded his temper. It being judged necessary by all parties to summon an extraordinary Diet, the King issued orders accordingly. The Dietines were in many places very tumultuous, and some mischief was done. Some of the nobility cried out, that they made a part of a free people, and exclaimed against a foreign military force, and the pretences of an assistance that ruled with the greatest degree of despotism. In some places the Russian officers, who attended at all the Dietines, were insulted: however, their opposition shewed rather discontent, than their power. It was evident, that the Diet was only a form, and that the Empress of Russia was the only governing power in Poland. The most refractory
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of these nobles were sufficiently punished; the Russian troops being sent to live at free quarters upon their estates. In the mean time, the tribunal of the General Confederacy was opened with great solemnity in the palace of Prince Radzivil; where the re-union of the confederacy of the Dissidents, and of the General Confederacy of the Malecontents was declared. At length the much-wished, and hoped for event took place, and the Diet met at Warsaw, October 5. The King began by addressing the assembly with a most pathetic speech, in which he strongly recommended concord to the members. The Bishop of Cracow made as warm an harangue as he did before, inveighing against the pretensions of the Dissidents, and reminding the King, in the strongest terms of the oath he had taken, to support the Catholic faith. The Diet, without proceeding to the election of a Marshal, agreed, that Prince Radzivil should perform the functions of that office.

The next day's debate on the affair of the Dissidents being very warm, Prince Radzivil adjourned the Diet for a week, in hopes that some of the present heat would wear off, and that a better method of treating the affair might be concerted in the interval. Every expedient was used to qualify the violence of the opposite party, and in order to bring

bring them into a disposition favourable to a happy accommodation, it was planned that the Diet should appoint a certain number of commissioners out of the three orders of the state, to whom it should grant full power to settle with the Russian Ambassador, and finally to conclude upon all matters relative to the Dissidents.

Notwithstanding these attempts to introduce good temper, or even moderation, the third meeting of the Diet proved more turbulent and tumultuous than the former. The Bishops of Cracow, Kiovia, &c. spoke vehemently against all the pretensions of the Dissidents, and declared, they never would consent to the establishment of a commission with full powers to enter into conferences with the Russian Ambassador upon the subject. During the debate, the parties became so violent, that the Marshal was obliged to prorogue the meeting for four days.

The Russian troops, who had for some months nearly surrounded, as well as intersected the kingdom of Poland, had now closely invested the city of Warsaw, and were in possession, and kept strict guards upon all the avenues leading to it. The day after this tumult in the Diet, some detachments of their troops entered the city, and having seized
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the Bishops of Cracow and Kiovia, together with Count Rzewriki, the Waywode of Cracovia and his son, and some other deputies, they carried them off prisoners. As nobody knew at first the destinations of these grandees, nor even where they were carried to, this affair caused a great and general consternation. But though it intimidated some of the deputies belonging to that party, yet it only served to inflame others. Many people blamed the noble prisoners for the virulent and unguarded expressions they had made use of, in speaking of some of the great powers, who had interested themselves in favour of the Dissidents, while others applauded them for their free sentiments.

The fourth meeting of the Diet, notwithstanding the absence of the most turbulent members, was extremely tumultuous, and great animosity was shewn by the different parties. The King, the Prince Primate, and the Nuncio of Podolia, made very pathetic and conciliating speeches, but nothing could calm the violent spirit which then possessed the members. The Diet having met again, the following day, (Oct. 17) it was at last concluded, after long debates, to adopt Prince Radzivil's proposal, and to appoint a commission to settle the affair of the Dissidents. This commission consisted at first, of fourteen members, but was encreased to about

about sixty; their meetings were in the house of the Russian Ambassador, and the Diet, to give them time finally to settle, and thoroughly to examine into the important subject in which they were engaged, was prolonged to the first of February, 1768. The commissioners, after many meetings, at length signed their resolutions, which were transmitted to Moscow for the approbation of the Empress.

During these transactions, several applications were ineffectually made for the enlargement of the Grandees who had been seized by the Russians. Prince Repnin, however, satisfied the minds of the people, by assuring them, they were not in close confinement, but were at large, *under the care of a detachment* of Wilna, where they were treated with all the respect due to their quality.—The Empress of Russia, upon an application that was made to her personally, by M. Pfazsky, resident of the King of Prussia, observed, that these nobles were possessed with so turbulent a spirit, that their liberty would destroy all the pains she had taken for the peace and happiness of the Republic.

This great affair of the Dissidents was signed to their advantage, (Nov. 21.) They and the Greeks were to have a church in the capital, temples and schools in all the districts of the provinces of the kingdom,

kingdom, and of the great Duchy of Lithuania, on condition, that if they have a mind to build any in the towns, they should be obliged to obtain leave for that purpose from the King: the nobles, however, should be at liberty to grant them the same favour in their respective territories: further, the Dissidents and dis-united might make use of bells and organs, administer baptism, marry, and bury, according to their own form, without the least obstacle.

The grand commission, which was appointed to adjust the affairs of the Dissidents, resumed their conferences (Jan. 14, 1768) at the palace of the Prince Repnin, the Russian Ambassador. Among other regulations they prescribed, it was decreed, that the King should enjoy a yearly pension of one million and a half of florins, to be paid by the treasury. That Prince Radzivil should have an annual pension of 600,000, by way of indemnification for his losses, and for three millions which the Republic owed to his family. That the Treasurer of the Crown, who had hitherto enjoyed a pension of 120,000 florins, should have it augmented to 200,000: that the great Treasurer of Lithuania should have an augmentation of 40,000 florins to his yearly appointments: Count Fleming, the Bishop of Wilna, and some others, were also to come.

come in for considerable sums, and it was ordered, that the sum of 12,000 Polish ducats, should be granted as a yearly appendage, or portion, to the two Princes of Saxony. The revenues of the country were thus, under a Russian direction, disposed of for the support of a Russian interest, and for enabling the chiefs of that faction, to stand upon a level with the throne.

Among other matters of great moment that were transacted by the High Commission, it was agreed, to confirm a treaty very advantageous to Russia, with respect to commerce, which had been passed between the two nations in the year 1686. A singular circumstance in this decree, and one which marked the spirit of the whole proceeding, was, that the treaty was for the future to be understood and received in the form in which it then existed in the archives of the Russian empire, and not as it was published and before received in Poland. It was also resolved by the commission, to suppress the jurisdiction of the Nunciature, and that instead thereof, a Synod, or Ecclesiastical Council, should be erected, of which the Primate was to be president. That this tribunal should decide, as the dernier resort, all such ecclesiastical causes as had been hitherto carried to the court of Rome, or laid before

fore the Nuncio, from the court residing there. That the tax on Pope's bulls should be abolished, or at least reduced, and that a new regulation should be made concerning the tithes. A Minister Plenipotentiary was also to be sent to Rome, to inform the Pope of their motives for re-establishing the Dissidents in their ancient rights, and to desire his Holiness to withdraw his Nuncio, and not send any more to Poland, but to invest the Prince Primate with the character of Hereditary Legate.

While the High Commission was employed in this manner, a brief was delivered to the King, and another to the Primate, by the Pope's Nuncio. In the brief to the King, it was said, that he ought rather to abdicate the crown, than to sign things that were so prejudicial to the Roman Catholic religion. The Nuncio also addressed a brief to the Bishops, and he delivered on the part of his Holiness, a manifesto to the Great Chancellor, in which he informed all those, who might subscribe to any articles of that nature, that they should be excommunicated. The Marshal of Lithuania, also entered a protest against all the acts of the Commissioners, and against every thing then transacting, or to be transacted, under the influence of foreign arms. This protest contained many severe invectives

tives against the Russians, and animadverted on their conduct in general in the most bitter terms. But previous to the Marshal's taking these steps, he had the precaution to sell all his estates, and immediately after quitted the country, and retired to Rome, to shelter himself from all pursuits.

The Diet, which met Feb. 1, was again adjourned for three weeks, in order to consider several things which tended to exasperate the minds of the people. In the mean time, the commissioners who seemed to have substituted themselves in the place of the Diet, and assumed the whole legislative authority of Poland, proceeded with the utmost vigour and expedition. When a Diet, agreeable to their interest could be, there was no doubt of their giving the form of ratification to their resolves. They were, however, considerably retarded in the execution of one part of this commission, that which regarded the finances, by the opposition of the clergy, who absolutely refused to part with any more of the revenues towards defraying the public expences. The Commissioners, however, fixed the public contributions at 23 millions of Polish florins per annum : they also ordered a coinage of one hundred millions of silver, and twelve millions of copper.

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All the treaties between the Republic, the Empire of Russia, and the King of Prussia, were renewed and confirmed; and the Empress of Russia was declared, and continued guarantee of the rights and privileges of the Polish nation. The Russian merchants were to be exempted from the payment of any particular duties established in Poland; but were to be subject to the customs of transit appertaining to the Republic. By the above-mentioned Treaty of Commerce, and by these new regulations, Russia took possession of the whole commerce, as before she had done of the whole government of Poland.

By another regulation, the Dukes of Courland were not to be obliged to receive in person the investiture of that Duchy from the Kings of Poland: and the Courland nobility were to be exempt from all toll-duties throughout the kingdom.

The Diet, after two more adjournments, at length finally met, (March 5): a considerable body of Russian troops attended as usual to prevent disorder, and to promote unanimity. The states had very little trouble: they had nothing to do but to ratify all the articles that had been passed by the High Commission; and as an instance of the harmony

mony that subsisted between all the parties, it was agreed, that such conclusions as the commissioners had passed among themselves, should be confirmed and ratified as well as those which they had passed jointly, with the Russian Ambassador. The treaty which the Commissioners had entered into with the Ambassador, as well respecting the Dissidents, as the state in general, and whatever other matters, was declared to have the force of a law, and was to be considered as a fundamental and perpetual constitution. It was then declared, that the General Confederacy of the States, as well as that of the Dissidents, were now at an end, and the deputies made an entry to that purpose in the journals. The business being now finished, the King put an end to the Diet with the usual ceremony. Notwithstanding these conciliating measures at Warsaw, fresh animosities were discovered at Podolia, where the Grandees endeavoured to spirit up the people to an insurrection, by setting up standards, on which were printed a wounded eagle, with this inscription—
 “ CONQUER OR DIE.”

Poland, notwithstanding this temporary relief, soon fell back into her deplorable state. The extraordinary violence of the measures pursued by the Russians, particularly the unheard-of outrage of seizing

seizing the Senators and carrying them prisoners out of the country, soon procured them enemies from other quarters, and was in a great measure the cause of fresh disturbances : but these shall be the subject of a future chapter.

C H A P. IV.

Imposition of Stephano.—Lady of the Resident insulted.—Disgrace of Count de Panin.—Directions for observations to be made of the Transit of Venus.—The Empress's letter to M. Count Orlov.—Orders to erect an equestrian statue to Peter the Great.—The new code of laws framed by the Empress.—Extracts from some of her letters to Voltaire on the subject.—The Empress inoculated, &c.

IN the province of Montenero, which is tributary to the Grand Seignior, but which borders upon the Venetian Dalmatia, an insurrection took place by means of one Stephano, a foreigner, who exercised the profession of a physician. This adventurer, who was a man of fine figure and great address, having taken advantage of their ignorance and violent attachment to the Muscovite name and religion, publicly declared himself Czar Peter the III^d, and pretended that the report of his death was designedly spread at the time by his parents, to favour his escape, which he had happily effected. His pretences were warmly seconded by the Caloyers (Greek Monks) and he got himself received and acknowledged as the Czar, not only by the
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people, but by the Bishop, and all the other Orders.

The lady of the Resident from the Empress of Russia, was insulted at Stockholm in her coach by three carmen of the city, who broke the glasses, and beat the coachman, by which fright she miscarried. The carmen were all arrested, and condemned to death; but the Resident interceding for them, they were only whipped. About this time Count de Panin, who, besides being governor to the Grand Duke, held one of the first posts in that empire, was disgraced.

The transit of the planet Venus over the sun, which was to happen in the summer of 1769, now employed the attention of her Imperial Majesty. The following is a copy of her letter on this subject to his Excellency Count Woladimer Orlov, Director of the Academy of Sciences at Petersburg.

“ Monf. Count Orlov,

“ Having been informed that in the summer of the year 1769, the planet Venus will pass over the sun, I write you this letter, that you may acquaint the Academy of Sciences on my part; first, that it is my pleasure, that the Academy should procure the observations to be made with the
utmost

utmost care, and that I desire in consequence to know, secondly, which are the most advantageously situated places of the empire that the Academy has destined for this observation? To the end, that in case it shall be necessary to erect any buildings, workmen, &c. may be sent, and proper measures be taken; thirdly, that if there be not sufficient number of astronomers in the Academy for completing the observations in the places pitched upon ~~in the~~ Academy, I propose, and take upon me to ~~hold~~ out among my marine subjects, such as, during the interval between the present time, and the transit of Venus, may be perfected in the habit of observing under the eyes of the professors, so as to be employed to advantage in this expedition, and to the satisfaction of the Academy. You will, Mr. Count, transmit me the answer of the Academy, with its full opinion about every thing above, that I may give orders for the whole without loss of time.

“CATHERINE.”

Moscow, 3d March, 1767.

Here we may observe the preference that is generally given to English artificers. Immediately on the receipt of the Empress's letter, Mr. Ramouski, of the Imperial Academy of Sciences, applied to a Member of the Royal Society of London, Mr.

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Short,

Short, to procure the necessary instruments for the purpose of proceeding successfully in that important observation. This request being complied with, Mr. Ramouski candidly acknowledged the great joy of the Academy, and their obligations to Mr. Short.

To complete her popularity, the Empress now designed to erect an equestrian statue in honour of the Emperor PETER THE GREAT. The Sieur Betzki was to have the direction of it, and all architects, and other intelligent persons, were invited with a promise of rewards proportioned to their merit, to give the Academy their advice with regard to decorations, inscriptions, &c. applicable to the subject.

We now come to treat of the great policy of this reign : the laws of this vast empire were voluminous to a degree of the greatest absurdity, perplexed, insufficient, in many cases contradictory, and so loaded with precedents, reports, cases, and opinions, that they afforded an eternal scene of altercation, and were scarcely to be reconciled or understood by the very professors of them. The particular laws of the different provinces were also continually interfering and clashing, and caused such confusion, that the whole presented an endless

less chaos, and effaced almost every trace of original system or design. The arduous task of putting this confusion into order the Empress undertook; accordingly she summoned deputies from every province in the empire to attend her at Moscow, in order to form there an entire new code of laws, for the government of the whole.

The commission for forming this new code of laws was opened with great solemnity on the 10th of August.

On this day the Deputies of the several Orders and provinces of the empire met in obedience to her Majesty's command, at seven o'clock in the morning, at the Chudove monastery, from whence they were to proceed to the cathedral church of Upenky to hear Divine Service and take the oaths.

Her Majesty in great state wearing the Imperial robe, and a coronet on her head, arrived at the cathedral first, and then the procession of the Deputies from the monastery began in the following order, the Deputies of the higher order, viz. those of the several departments of administration, then the governments according to their ranks. 1. Of Moscow, 2. of Kiefs, 3. of Petersburgh, 4. of Novogorod

5. of Kafan, 6. of Astracan, 7. of Siberia, 8. of Ircootfk, 9. of Smolensco, 10. of Elstonia, 11. of Livonia, 12. of Wiborg, 13. of Nisnagered, 14. of Little Russia, 15. of the country of the Ukrain, 16. of Voronega, 17. of Belgorod, 18. of Archangelgorod, 19. of Orenburgh, and 20. of New Russia: the Deputies of the districts severally followed their chief Deputies, first those of the gentry, next those of the cities or towns, afterwards those of the gentlemen farmers and other old servants of the state, and lastly those of the common people. The Deputies of the military Cossacks had their places with the Deputies of the provinces they inhabit, after the Deputies of the towns.

After Divine Service, an admonitory discourse was delivered by the Bishop of Twer, in which there appeared to be great eloquence, and several arguments to the purpose.

After the discourse, the oath was administered, the form of which was excellent, as well for its sentiments as its solemnity, and it was severally subscribed by the Deputies.

The prince de Galetzín, Vice Chancellor, then pronounced a kind of charge to them in the name of the Empress, during which she delivered to the Attorney-

Attorney-General the order and rules for regulating the manner in which the commission should be executed, and the Deputies to the number of four hundred kissed her hand.

An account of the rules for regulating the commission would afford little entertainment, but the Empress also delivered to the Deputies instructions for composing the laws which are worthy to be mentioned.

The fundamental principles of these instructions were, 'that all men are under an indispensable obligation to do good to each other to the utmost of their power : that Russia is a monarchy, and that the true end of monarchy is not to deprive mankind of their natural liberty, but to regulate their conduct so as to obtain the supreme good of the whole, and that the form of government which best regulates the conduct of individuals, and least restrains natural liberty, is that alone which coincides with the views and purposes of rational beings, and attains the end, which in all regulations of civil polity should be kept constantly in view.'

It is impossible to contract these instructions into an epitome but the spirit of them will sufficiently appear from the following extracts :

“ It is a man’s greatest happiness to be so circumstanced as that if his passions should prompt him to injure others, he should still think it his interest not to indulge them.

“ Civil liberty consists in being subject to such laws as restrain natural liberty only so far as it may produce mutual injuries, and lessen the happiness of the community.

“ No actions but such as may be prejudicial to individuals or the community are cognizable by the laws. Laws which controul other actions are tyrannical. All laws should be so contrived as to make interest and duty coincide.

“ Laws are the institutions of a legislator, customs are institutions of the people ; it is bad policy to alter that by laws which ought to be altered by custom ; alterations in custom should be attempted only by example.

“ Every punishment not inflicted by necessity is tyrannical. Right and not power is the source of law.

“ All laws in which the legislation aims at extreme rigour will be evaded.

“ A Le-

“ A legislator ought to apply more to prevent crimes than to punish them, and to prevent depravity of manners by proper regulations, than to break the spirit of a people by the terror of corporal and capital punishment.

“ What the law calls punishment, is in itself misery, consequently an evil ; it is only relatively good.

“ Experience proves that mild punishments effect their purpose better than those that are severe.

“ Licentiousness proceeds from neglecting to punish, not from punishing with mildness*.

“ That a punishment may produce the desired effect, it is sufficient that the evil it occasions exceeds the good expected from the crime. All severity exceeding these bounds is useless, consequently tyrannical.

“ The most powerful restraint upon crimes is not the *severity*, but the *certainty* of punishment.

* Thus severe punishments produce impunity, because few are willing to prosecute: This is the case in England with respect to trifling violations of property which our laws punish with death.

" We should follow nature who has ordained *shame* to be the scourge of guilt. The greatest part of punishment should be the infamy which attends its being inflicted. Punishment can cease to be infamous only under a tyrannical government, which capriciously inflicts the same punishment upon the innocent and the guilty.

" It is unjust to punish him who robs, in the same manner as him who not only robs but murders. It is also bad policy, for in that case, he that has robbed has no motive arising from the laws not to kill.

" There should be no punishment by which the body is maimed.

" The decision of the courts of justice should be publicly known and carefully preserved, that justice may always be administered *this day* as it was the *day before*, and the property and life of every citizen as surely established and as firmly secured as the constitution of the state itself.

" The use of torture is contrary to all the dictates both of nature and reason: What right can power give to inflict punishment upon a citizen while it is yet doubtful whether he is innocent or guilty?

" To

“ To make an oath cheap by frequent practice is to weaken its obligation, and destroy its efficacy.

“ Every man should be tried by his equals.

“ In the determination of the judge the law only should speak, and not the man. If the judge instead of the law delivers his own opinion, the people can never exactly know their reciprocal obligations.

“ No judge ought to confine a citizen that can give bail, except immediately to answer the charge of a capital offence.

“ There should be no confiscation of property to the sovereign but in cases of treason; and even then the criminal should forfeit that part of his property only which he had himself acquired.

“ All *useless* punishment is *unjust*†.

“ No axiom is more dangerous than that *the spirit of the law ought to be considered and not the*

† This is contrary to the silly notion that there is a *fitness* in punishment *per-se*, and that, in consequence of this *fitness*, wherever there has been offence, there should be pain, without reference to any end; without mending the offender, restraining him from further mischief, or deterring others.

letter. If this is adopted, the same law that condemns to day, will acquit to-morrow, according to different opinions which different judges may form of it's *spirit.*

“ If the rule of right which ought alike to govern the clown and the philosopher, is not a *simple question* of fact for the judge, the state of the citizen will be liable to strange accidents.

“ The laws ought to be written in the vernacular tongue, and without any unusual phrase.

“ The code which contains all the laws should be sold at as small a price as the catechism; and it must be ordained that in all schools children shall be taught to read alternately out of the church books and the laws.

“ There is difference between taking into custody and shutting up in prison. To take a man into custody is nothing more than to guard the person of a citizen accused of some dangerous crime till it can be ascertained whether he is innocent or guilty. Confinement in this case should be gentle and short: The affair should be finally determined soon, or the man discharged.

“ The

“ The credibility of a witness is always *less* in proportion as the crime is more horrid, and the circumstances extraordinary. This rule should always be applied in cases of pretended witchcraft and wanton cruelty.

“ Universal experience demonstrates that the frequent use of capital punishment never mended the morals of a people. The death of a malefactor does not so effectually deter from wickedness as the example, continually remaining, of a man who is deprived of liberty for this end that he may repair by a life of labour the injury he has done to the community. Sudden and violent impressions act forcibly, but not long; a capital punishment, however it may terrify, is soon forgotten.

“ The law should never attempt to inflict infamy for actions which moralists hold to be indifferent, because in that case, actions which moralists deem infamous will cease to be so. If infamy is not universally the mark of guilt, guilt will not be inferred from infamy.

“ Great care should be taken not to inflict corporal or painful punishments upon those who are infected with enthusiasm, and either pretend to inspiration or counterfeited extraordinary sanctity.

Enthusiasm is engrafted upon pride, and will flourish by punishment. We have seen instances of this in the late secret chancery where *such persons used to come voluntarily on particular days merely for the sake of suffering punishment.*

“ Punishment should be more for crimes to which the temptation is strong than for others*.

“ No man should be liable to imprisonment for insolvency, if he can shew that he is not become insolvent dishonestly but by accidents that no human prudence could foresee or prevent. To imprison such a man would be to punish misfortune, and injure the state.

“ We should, however, in this case distinguish fraud from great indiscretion, great indiscretion from perfect innocence.

“ If the law makes many actions criminal, which by nature are indifferent, the crimes which such actions may produce will not be prevented; but

* This is just, though the strength of temptation extenuates guilt; we punish, not because guilt has been incurred, but because mischief must be prevented. Punishment must therefore be proportioned not to turpitude in the party, but danger to the state.

many

many crimes will be created which they would not produce.

“ The most certain, but at the same time the most difficult expedient to mend the morals of a people, is a perfect system of education.

“ To these principles, with many others equally excellent, connected with them, or arising from them, several are added with respect to population. It is recommended to the Deputies to contrive some law by which the venereal disease may be restrained and extirpated; an object sure of the highest importance as well to individuals as the state, and which nothing can exclude from public consideration but an unhappy mode of government, which by the implicit delegation of the power lodged in the Prince, to the heads of different factions, as, by intrigue and cabal they prevail against each other, sets over the nation those who have no interest in its health, who are absorbed in private views, and, with respect to the public, think of those objects only, with which the continuance of their own power is connected, and who, when by temporary expedients they have provided for the immediate exigencies of the state, think only how to gratify their passions by the advantages of their situation.

“ Among

Among other axioms of great importance under this head are the following:

“ A country so overwhelmed with taxes, that the people with all their care and industry, cannot but with the utmost difficulty procure a bare subsistence, will, in a length of time be depopulated.

“ The ease of assertion and the difficulty of examination have induced many to affirm that the poorer the subjects, the more numerous will be their families; and the heavier the taxes the more readily they will find means to pay them. This sophistry has, and will for ever bring destruction upon those states in which it is adopted.

“ Machines which by shortening labour diminish the number of workmen are greatly prejudicial to the populousness of a country, except with respect to commodities which we cannot make fast enough for exportation; in this case, if five men with a machine produce as much work as ten without one, the other five will not be idle, but will produce a like quantity with another machine.

“ The law which confiscates the effects of any stranger to the use of the sovereign in whose territories he happens to die, and the law which appropriates

priates to the sovereign or his subjects the cargo of a ship wrecked upon the coast, are alike absurd and inhuman.

“ To forbid that which nature dictates or necessity requires, is to produce dishonesty. What without the prohibition would have been done openly and innocently, will, after the prohibition be done secretly and knavishly.

“ Every state is under an indispensable obligation of affording to all its citizens a certain support during life, and should not leave those who are unable to work to the casual bounty of passengers in the street.

“ The establishment of companies for handicraft trades is useful, if the number of workmen is not limited; but in that case they are prejudicial, for the very limitation prevents the increase of handicraft trades.”

The Empress concluded her instructions thus :

“ Flatterers have instilled into all sovereigns upon earth this pernicious maxim, ‘ That their people are created for them only.’ But we think, and esteem it our duty to declare, that ‘ We are
‘ created

“ created for our people,” for this reason we speak of things as they are, and have by this legislation intended to make Russia more just and more happy, than any nation upon earth. To be disappointed in this purpose, would be an unhappiness I do not wish to survive.”

These instructions were translated into French, and dispersed all over Europe; but were forbidden to be sold at Paris, by order of the Government of France. Voltaire says, in one of his letters to the Empress, “ A Dutch bookseller has printed your instructions, which ought to be those of all the sovereigns, and of all the tribunals in the world. He sends two thousand copies of them to Paris; they are examined by a blockhead that happens to be the Royal Censor of Books, as if they were a common book, and as if a blackguard of Paris was to be the judge of the directions of a sovereign, and of such a sovereign: this blockhead declares, some of the propositions rash, ill-founded, absurd, and offensive to a French ear; he denounces it to the Chancellor as a dangerous book, as a book of philosophy; and the copies of it are returned to Holland without any further examination,

“ I see in your instructions these sentiments: every government ought to be so constituted, that

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no one subject of it should have any reason to fear any other subject of it ; but every subject should be afraid of the law.

“ The laws should be made only to prohibit what may be hurtful to every one in particular, and to society in general.

“ These, then, are the divine maxims that my blockheadly countrymen will not suffer amongst them ! They deserve—they deserve—they deserve—all that they suffer !”

*Extracts from some Letters of the Empress to
Voltaire.*

“ Our edifice of legislation rises by degrees. The instructions for the code of laws are the foundations of it. You will see that our regulations do not recede from the principles, but succeed to them. They will be soon followed by those relating to finance, commerce, police, &c. which have taken us up two years ; after which, the code will be a matter of great ease to finish.

“ I am persuaded, and I have directed, that the best manner of proceeding in criminal cases, and the most certain is, that which makes them pass through three several instances in a given time,
without

without which, the personal safety of accused persons would be at the mercy of passion, ignorance, mistake, and wrongheadedness.

“ These are, indeed, precautions, which will not please much the Holy Inquisition, as it stiles itself ; but reason has its rights, against which, sooner or later, folly and prejudice must split.

“ Inquisitions, both upon matters of the State, and of the Church, would not require a great number of rules and of forms, if Princes were either well informed or enlightened.

“ Your newspapers say, that I had demanded 30,000 Tartars from the Khan, and that I had been refused. I assure you, that such an enormous absurdity never entered into my head, and I doubt, very much, whether your Ambassador at the Ottoman Porte, has ever told your Court so, for you know, that Ambassadors are in general supposed to have common sense at least.

“ The political and philosophical history of the two Indies, gives me a great aversion for the conquerors of the new world, and has prevented my reading Helvetius on Education. I can form no idea of his book. It seems very difficult to believe, that

that Peter the Wild Boy, or a porter in the streets of London, was born with the same faculties with the greatest men of the age.

“ You wonder, perhaps, at my buying pictures. I should, perhaps, do better, if I bought fewer; but opportunities lost, you know, never return. Besides, my income is not confounded with that of the State, and with good management and order, much may be done: I know it by experience.

“ I had heard of the adventure that happened to my ‘ Instructions’ at Paris before I received your letter; that, and the appendage to it were in consequence of an order from the Duc de Choiseuil. I assure you, that I laughed very heartily when I saw it in the Gazettes, and I was convinced, that I had my complete revenge.

“ I am at present quite enraptured with my gardens in the English style; curved lines, gentle descents, water in the form of lakes, &c. and I have a supreme contempt for straight lines, and alleys that are twin-brothers. All my statues are banished into the gallery. In short, the Anglomania reigns in my Plantomania.

“ I want some comedies for my young folks at
my

my convent. There is too much love in the generality of your French plays; and, besides, your best writers are too often confined and spoiled by the national taste. It is impossible to get them composed, for they are by no means things that can be done by command: they must be the fruits of genius. Pray tell me what I shall do; no one knows better."

The Empress of Russia having sent her new code of laws to the King of Prussia for his revifal, his Majesty concluded his letter in return to this effect:

" I have read with admiration your work. The ancient Greeks, who were admirers of all merit, but assigned the first feat of glory to legislators, would have placed your Imperial Majesty between Lycurgus and Solon."

At this time the small pox was very rife and fatal at Petersburgh. The Countess Schremetoff, who was to have been married to Count de Panin, grand master of the Court, who was for a while disgraced, was carried off by this distemper. The Empress sent to England for Dr. Dimsdale, the then famous inoculator, who on his arrival at Petersburgh, performed the operation on her Imperial Majesty, who

who set out the next day for Czariskozelo. It had no visible effect till six days after, when the weather being remarkably fine, and the ground covered with snow, her Majesty took a walk in the morning for the air, as she had done the preceding days; and on her return to her apartment, about two in the afternoon, felt some symptoms of a fever, which continued till the third day towards six in the evening, when the eruption first began to appear. The Empress kept her apartments but three days; the rest of the time she went abroad and saw company. She had ordered two merchants in London to pay Dr. Dimsdale 10,000*l.* sterling upon his arrival in London, and granted him 500*l.* per annum during his life. She likewise made the Doctor physician to herself, and the Grand-Duke; also, appointed him Privy Councillor of State, and created him Baron of the empire of all the Russias.

C H A P. V.

Weak state of Poland.—Jealousy of the Turks.—War between them and the Russians.—Declaration of the Imperial Court of Russia upon the Arrest of its Minister resident at Constantinople.—Disposition of each Army.—Provisions for the War.—The Russians victorious.—Inhumanity of General Drewits.—Petition of Count Tottleben.

THE unhappy country of Poland still continued a victim to all the calamities which attend a weak government, and the nearness of too potent neighbours. While the King endeavoured to maintain the balance equally, he lost his consequence, and while the blood of his subjects were deluging his country, he had the mortification to behold the malady, without being able to close the wound. The zealous part which her Imperial Majesty had taken in supporting the claims of the Dissidents, had awakened the resentments of foreign nations. The Popish clergy, enraged at the diminution of their power, secretly began to foment disturbances; conspiracy after conspiracy ensued, and, at length, an open confederacy was formed and avowed, to annul the decrees of the Diet, and to maintain the power

power of oppression by open force. || Whole towns in possession of the Dissidents, were plundered, set on fire, and consumed, the inhabitants massacred, and their estates laid waste and destroyed. The few troops which her Czarish Majesty had sent into Poland, for the preservation of order, unable to resist the torrent that every where poured forth upon them, besought their sovereign for fresh supplies. The numbers that were sent in consequence of this requisition, excited the jealousy of the Turks. The Russian Ambassador, on the pretence of concealing the hostile intentions of his court, was insulted and imprisoned. Remonstrances and appeals, were alike ineffectual for his release. While his Britannic Majesty's resident endeavoured openly to appease, the French Ambassador laboured secretly to increase the storm. In the end, declarations of war were reciprocally published, and formidable preparations were making, on both sides, to commence hostilities.

The following is the Declaration of the Imperial Court of Russia, to the Courts of Europe, upon the arrest of its Minister, resident at Constantinople:—

“ Her Imperial Majesty in taking a part in the
 “ transactions of the Republic of Poland, as huma-
 “ nity

" nity on one side, and the obligations of her
 " Crown on the other, had prompted her, was no
 " less careful to conduct herself in such a manner,
 " as not to give any umbrage to a jealous and
 " powerful neighbour : every part of her conduct
 " was public : and she had likewise a particular at-
 " tention to communicate in confidence to the Ot-
 " toman Porte, her resolutions upon every step she
 " took, and the conduct she intended to observe,
 " till the peace and tranquillity of that kingdom
 " was entirely re-established. But the enemies to
 " the peace of these two empires, were not wanting
 " to blacken at the Porte, all the actions of her Im-
 " perial Majesty, and to sow the seeds of discord by
 " the most false imputations. The Porte, restrained
 " by the upright conduct the Court of Russia con-
 " tinued to maintain towards them, listened, but it
 " was with caution, to the calumny that was
 " spread. Some attention to the affairs of Poland,
 " and an impartial examination of what Russia had
 " done, compared with the overtures made by that
 " Court at the Porte, had dispelled all suspicion,
 " and the public tranquillity seemed to be no more
 " threatened. The common enemies, however,
 " repeated their insinuations with more rage and
 " audacity than ever, to impose upon the credulity
 " of the Turkish nation, and infused a spirit of dis-
 " content among them, which called for the notice
 " of

“ of government, for it had forced its way even in-
 “ to the Seraglio. The change in the Ministry,
 “ brought about by these events, soon produced a
 “ revolution in the system of peace, equally dear to
 “ both nations. The new Vizier upon his advance-
 “ ment, immediately sent for M. Obreskow, her
 “ Imperial Majesty’s resident at the Porte, and af-
 “ ter having caused to be read in his presence a de-
 “ claration full of heavy charges against his Court,
 “ part of which already have been invalidated by
 “ the most fair and candid explanations, and others
 “ that had never existed, or were ever thought of,
 “ the Vizier pressed him to sign immediately under
 “ the guaranty of the allies of his sovereign, some
 “ very offensive conditions, in regard to which,
 “ there never had been made the least proposal dur-
 “ ing the whole course of the operations in Poland.
 “ These conditions, very derogatory to the honour
 “ and glory of an Empress, accustomed to receive
 “ no law, proposed in a tone and form repugnant
 “ to the freedom of negotiation adopted to every
 “ power, were attended with the alternative of an
 “ immediate rupture of the perpetual peace between
 “ the two empires. The Russian Minister, confi-
 “ dent of the upright intentions of his Court, and
 “ conscious of the probity of his own conduct, as
 “ having fulfilled the duties of a long ministry, was
 “ incapable of unworthily degrading his Court and
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“ his own character, by a humiliating engagement,
 “ and which would have exceeded the power and
 “ commission of any minister, let them be ever so
 “ extensive; he gave, therefore, a positive refusal
 “ as became his honour and his duty—and the re-
 “ solution of the Divan which followed immediately
 “ after, was to arrest him, and part of his retinue,
 “ and carry him to the castle of the Seven Towers.
 “ It would be needless for the Imperial Court of
 “ Russia, to dwell any longer upon this event, or
 “ to enter here into an examination of it. The
 “ fact speaks for itself. The honour and glory of
 “ her Imperial Majesty—the regard to her empire
 “ point out the part it is right for her to take. Con-
 “ fiding in the justice of her cause, she appeals to
 “ all Christian Courts on the situation she finds her-
 “ self in, with regard to the common enemy of
 “ Christianity, certain as she is, that her conduct
 “ will meet with equal approbation from each of
 “ them, and that she shall have the advantage to
 “ join to the divine protection, the just assistance of
 “ her friends, and the good wishes of all Chris-
 “ tendom.”

On the breaking out of the war, the general
 voice seemed to presage victory to Russia, and many
 were of opinion, that Constantinople, (the Turkish
 capital) would be in possession of the Russian army
 before

before the end of the first campaign ; but though her Imperial Majesty's armies had been in general victorious, the progress of war was far from being rapid. Surrounded with enemies on every side, her generals had not only the common enemy to combat, but the treachery of the inhabitants of the country, they were destined to defend. The Confederates were more formidable enemies than the Turks, as the latter were open and generous, the former secret and deceitful.

The inclemency of the winter, which generally affords a temporary respite from the fury of the war, is on the contrary the time in which the Tartars commit the greatest ravages. Though the strength of the Russian lines, and the good disposition that was made of their troops to cover the frontiers, were a considerable check upon these cruel incursions, they could not entirely prevent them ; by which means the Russian Ukraine, as well as the adjoining provinces of Poland, suffered cruelly. General Romanzow who commanded on the side of Tartary and the Ukraine, did all that could be done to prevent these mischiefs ; but the country was so open, and the line of defence so far extended, that no vigilance was sufficient to guard it in every part against the designs of such an enemy.

There were 60,000 Turks posted during the winter in different places between Choczim, Bender, and Oczacow. The greatest part of the grand army was assembled in the neighbourhood of Adrianople; another part was stationed near Varna, and a third near the Danube.

The Russians under the command of Prince Galitzin, consisted of 31 regiments of foot, 40 regiments of horse, and five of hussars; together with 900 Cossacks, a train of artillery of 100 pieces of cannon, and a suitable body of engineers. The regiments of foot consisted of 20,000 men, and those of horse of 800 men each. The other army under General Romanzow, contained 11 regiments of foot, four of horse, and six of hussars, besides 10,900 Cossacks.

While the armies were employed in covering the frontiers, and preparing for the ensuing campaign, the Court of Petersburg was equally engaged in providing funds for the support and carrying on the war. The contributions imposed upon the peasants, were augmented a rouble and a half each per annum: the province of Livonia was taxed 100,000 roubles per annum; and that of Esthonia 50,000. All persons in civil employments, were to pay 20 per cent. out of their salaries, and those that kept
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carriages, five roubles for each horse. The Empress also created upon this occasion a new council^b for political and military affairs, and which she was to preside herself: she appointed seven noblemen to be the members of it. All business, whether political or military, was to be under the direction of this council, and every member was to give his opinion in writing upon the subjects that came before them: all the dispatches were to be signed by the Empress.

The fortress of Choczim, the key to the Turkish empire, was the first object of her Imperial Majesty's attention. Had that barrier been reduced, nothing could have retarded the advancement of her troops, but a general engagement, which probably might have determined the fate of the war. The Turks were vigorous on their onset, but sudden in their retreat. If their first shock was bravely sustained, their defeat was ensured. The Russians were remarkable for steadiness and perseverance. The importance of Choczim was known to the Turks, and they employed their whole force to defend it. Many bloody skirmishes attended its defence, and numbers perished on both sides without any considerable advantage to either. The situation of the place upon a mountain; the strength of the garrison consisting of 13,000 regular troops,

and the good condition of the fortifications, rendered an attack by storm, not only hazardous, but impracticable ; and the hope of reducing the garrison by a blockade being no longer probable, the Russian general on the approach of winter, wisely determined to withdraw his troops, to repass the Neister, and to cover his own magazines. Other motives concurred to strengthen this resolution. What Choczim was to the Turkish empire, Kamienieck was to the Polish dominions, a strong bulwark against the incursions of an invading enemy. The prince had received advice that a detachment from the Turkish army had entered Poland on the side of Mobilow, and he was under apprehensions lest Kamienieck should fall into the enemy's hands. His suspicions were not ill-grounded. The Confederates of Podolia held a private correspondence with the garrison of this fortress, and had invited the Turks to join in surprizing it. The sudden appearance of the Prince's army defeated the design, and answered an equally important purpose besides. The Russian army, by being continually exposed to the attacks of a numerous cavalry, was much impaired by fatigue, and wanted not only rest, but refreshment. Its magazines of ammunition and forage were greatly exhausted, and, in short, when the blockade of Choczim was determined, difficulties of every kind began to multiply. It was not
there-

therefore *fear* that caused the Prince to turn his back upon the enemy, but a prudent precaution, the certain concomitant of true courage.

While the Turks were vaunting their exploits on one side, the Tatars were no less insolent on the other. The Imperial army under Count Romanzoff, on the banks of Dnieper, had been no less vigilant than that of the Prince. The Zaperovian Kossacks, who formed the frontier of Russia against the Tatars of the Krim, lived in continual dread of a visit from those savages, and had implored her Imperial Majesty's protection. Flying squadrons of these savages were for ever making incursions, and seldom returned without committing murder. It was their custom to attack by surprise. If they were discovered, their flight was precipitate; if they succeeded their ravages were horrible.

Victory attended the Russian armies, and the Turks at last abandoned *hoczim*. Ostentatious accounts were published at Constantinople to appease the people, which were followed by complaints against the Vizier, that being aggravated by his enemies, accomplished his ruin. Neglect of duty, want of military skill, and even want of courage, were among the crimes with which he

was charged. The Grand Signior, without hearing his justification, deprived him of all his dignities, and appointed a more enterprizing general in his room.

Moldowani Aga Pacha, who succeeded, when he arrived at the Turkish camp, called the Vizier before him, and having signified his own elevation, and the Vizier's disgrace, not content with superceding his commission, instantly put an end to his life. Having thus signalized his exaltation by an act of brutal severity upon his predecessor, he seemed no less impatient of revenge against the enemy. With this view he caused a bridge of boats to be suddenly thrown over the Neister, and in the night between the second and third of September, at the head of a few chosen troops, he crossed that river; leaving orders with his generals to follow with the army as fast as possible. Having gained the opposite shore without opposition, he found himself pressed on all sides by a superior force; and a sudden flood having swelled the Neister, so as to prevent the passage of the troops to his relief, he beheld with grief his enterprize defeated, and saw no hope left but in a precipitate retreat. The bridge of boats on which he had crossed had been disordered by the flood, the confusion of a flying army increased that disorder, and it was with difficulty that

that the General himself could repass the river, leaving the greatest part of his followers to perish by the enemy. In this attempt the loss of the Turks was variously reported; but it could not have been considerable, as not above 8000 men had been able to pass.

This check, which the General ascribed to chance, served only to increase his impatience for a general engagement. On the 9th he caused three bridges, under cover of barracks erected for that purpose, to be thrown over the river, and marched his army to the number of 60,000 against the enemy. Prince Gallitzin was ready to receive them. The attack began about seven in the morning, and lasted till noon. The Turks, contrary to their usual custom, continued to fight with great obstinacy; but when once broken their retreat was precipitate: it was however retarded by the difficulty of repassing the river, in which many of them perished. In this engagement the Russians took some standards, colours, and horse-tails. The number of prisoners was not great; but the killed and wounded amounted to near 10,000 men.

Upon the news of this defeat, the panic among the Turks became general. They exclaimed against their new Vizier, who afterwards left the

army ; and expressed their indignation against the Confederates. They abandoned the fortress of Choczim, and precipitately retreated to Bender. The Russians passed the Neister in pursuit of them, and Prince Gallitzin occupied Choczim, where he found 143 pieces of cannon, and an uncommon quantity of ammunition. Seraglios of great officers had been taken. General Romanzow took also the command of the Russian army, and marched towards Bender.

On the side of the Ukraine the Russians had been no less successful than on the frontiers of Poland. Lieutenant-general Elmpe took possession of Yaffi; and 20,000 Moldavians had taken the oath of fidelity to her Imperial Majesty. General Medem advanced as far as Oczakow on the Black Sea.

It had been reported, that those of Bar had been cut to pieces by the Turks ; likewise that Prince Dolgorucki had landed in Dalmatia, on the confines of the Venetian territories, and carried off the famous Stephano Piccolo, who gave himself out to be the Emperor Peter III. but these were Turkish tales, propagated merely to amuse.

Moldovani Ali Pacha, was degraded and banished to one of the Greek islands, and Halil Bey,
of

of whom there is no prior account, was appointed Grand Vizier in his room.

The capital city of Warsaw, notwithstanding the presence of the King and Prince Repnin, and the protection of the Russian garrison, was more than once in imminent danger from the Confederates, who possessed the adjoining counties in such a manner, that the pests had not arrived for weeks together. The King had sent Ministers lately to the Courts of Russia, Great Britain, and Holland, as guarantees to the treaty of Carlowitz, and to those of France, Spain, Austria, Prussia, and Sweden, as guarantees of that of Oliva, for their friendly intervention.

The celebrated chiefs of the Confederacy of the Bar, were Counts Potocki and Krasinski, who, being obliged to retire with the body of the Confederates they commanded, under the Turkish protection, accordingly became a part of that army which acted upon the frontiers, where they probably bore a full share in all the actions of the campaign. They behaved with such bravery, that the Grand Seignior sent his own Solicitor, or Sword-bearer, from Constantinople to the camp, to invest Count Potocki with a furred robe, and to present him with a sabre, and 300 purses as a reward.

When the Ottoman army had retreated from the borders, the Russians were enabled to pay greater attention to the affairs in Poland, and to employ more troops upon that service, so the Confederates were continually harassed, and met with considerable losses. Nine Polish gentlemen, whose arms had been cut off at the wrists, presented in the capital city of their native country a spectacle, that would have disgraced a nation of savages, and that even amongst them would have excited every latent seed of pity, indignation, and horror, into action ! the Russian General Drewitz was the detested author of this inhuman and execrable act, and some accounts made him also the immediate operator in it.

Major-general Count Tottleben, who was in the service of her Imperial Majesty (Elizabeth) till the year 1761, and was afterwards degraded and banished, presented at this time a most humble petition to her Imperial Majesty in the following words :

“ The most gracious permission to return into your Imperial Majesty’s empire, and your capital city, restores to me, the most unhappy of all wretches a life, which I could hardly support for eight years, as I found myself during that whole
time,

time, in the very abyfs of misery and affliction, and in a fituation truly worthy of compaffion. But, wretched as I was, I constantly declined all propofals made to me, from different parts, to enter into fervice, and flattered myfelf that your Imperial Majefty's merciful heart upon fight of my moft humble petition, would permit me to devote my life, and fpill the very laft drop of my blood in that of your Imperial Majefty's moft auguft fervice. Deign to fuffer me, your fubject, to lay my moft humble petition at the feet of your Imperial Majefty, with that natural goodnefs and generofity fo highly celebrated through the univerfe : that paft offences may be forgotten, and I may be received again into the number of your moft faithful fubjects. My duty, joined to my moft natural inclination, would your Imperial Majefty but deign to employ me on any fervice, might perhaps give me an opportunity by expofing my life againft the enemies of your empire, of demonftrating my zeal for the fervice of your Imperial Majefty, as well as the infinite acknowledgment and gratitude I owe to fuch inexpressible mercy to me."

In purfuanee of this petition, her Imperial Majefty was pleafed to forgive him.

C H A P. VI.

History of the war with the Turks continued.—Various skirmishes, sieges, &c.—Letters from the respective Generals, &c.

THE Grand Seignior, in spite of his losses, was determined to continue with vigor the war against Russia. Great preparations were made on both sides. The land forces of the Turks were to be superior to those employed in the last campaign, and the naval force no less considerable.

The Court of Petersburg received from General Count de Panin, commander in chief of the second army, a circumstantial account of the expedition of the Count de Witgenstein, near Bender, at the head of four battalions of grenadiers, 800 hunters, and two regiments of fusiliers. In several little engagements he had with the enemy, the latter were always defeated, and the Russians, besides prisoners, took from them five pair of colours, a General's staff of command, a pair of kettle-drums, 264 camels, 21,000 horses, 10,500 oxen, 67,000 sheep.

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The Count de Romanzow, General in chief of the Russian forces, fixed his head-quarters in the Ukraine, in order to oppose any incursions which the Tartars might make upon the frontiers. The Haydamacks, to the number of 3,000, strengthened with cannon, began a-new their inroads; but Mr. Stembkouski, quarter-master of the Crown, was sent against them, with his detachment of Polish troops, and some hundreds of Russians. Major Drewitz attacked the Confederates near Koniskie, killed 300 of them, and made 150 prisoners, among whom were nine foreign Officers.

An affair likewise happened at Petrikau, where several Marshals of the Confederates had assembled with their troops, amounting to 5,000 men. These, being apprized that Colonel Ronne was marching towards them, quitted that town, into which Captain Castelli entered with about 250 men, the greater part of them horse. The Confederates, being informed of the smallness of this detachment, returned directly and attacked them. Captain Castelli took his measures so well, that he forced his way through the gardens, though they fired upon his men out of every window; however, when he came to the Jesuits Convents, he was killed.

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In the mean time the Confederates learning, that not only the remainder of the Vanguard, but also the Colonel himself, with all his forces, was coming up, they took their customary resolution of retreating, after setting fire to both the suburbs, through which Mr. Ronne was to pass. This obliged the Russians to make a circuit, and gave the Confederates time to retire. The Russians had about 30 killed, and as many wounded.

The Jesuits were suspected, with a good deal of foundation, of having facilitated the re-entry of the Confederates through their convent and thickets, well known to them. It was even said, that many of those religious were taken with arms in their hands.

The Confederates under Marshal Zarembo attacked on the 12th of December 1769, in the neighbourhood of Petrikau, the advanced guard of a body of Russian troops, commanded by General Weymar, and took some prisoners; but upon the approach of that body they ran away with precipitation, and set fire to the suburbs of the town, so that the Jesuits church was reduced to ashes.

Among other advantages successively obtained over the Turks, Colonel Colpakow defeated a body
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of 500 Tartars of the Crimea, under the command of two well known partisans near the frontiers of Bohemia, when upwards of 100 men were cut to pieces, among whom were the two commanders, and their standards were taken with 160 horses.

The Chan of the Tartars quitted his residence at Kaufany, not thinking himself in safety there, and retired further into the country. The Turkish army, which was on the other side of the Danube, lessened every day in its numbers, the janissaries deserting by whole platoons at a time. The Counts Potocki and Krasinski, were guarded at night by the Ottomans, and the greatest dissensions reigned among the Confederates, one part of whom had chosen the Sieur Krasinski for their chief, and the other part the Sieur Mostowski. The Count de Romanzow set out for Petersburg, in order to assist at the consultations which were to be held there concerning the operations of the ensuing campaign, and the command of the Russian army was delivered up till his return to Count Olitz.

The city of Smyrna was about this time on the brink of ruin. Between 40 and 50 Turks had formed a conspiracy to assassinate the next morning (being Sunday) all the Greeks while they were at church; to set fire to the city in different places, and

and to take advantage of the confusion to plunder the houses and massacre all that should attempt to oppose them. Happily, this terrible plot was discovered the evening before it was to be put in execution, and most of the principal persons concerned in it were taken, some of whom were privately put to death, others banished, and others sent to prison.

In the beginning of 1770, a second engagement happened between General Podgoritschany and a party of the enemy, consisting of 2000 infantry and 6000 cavalry, headed by three Pachas, and supported with nine pieces of cannon; they attacked the Russians near Toschany, but were routed after leaving above 2000 Turks upon the field of battle. The Russians took several standards, some cannon, and two waggons loaded with powder.

Part of the Confederates of Grand Poland were obliged by Colonel Drewitz and General Tschertoryskoi to retire towards the frontiers of Silesia and of Brandenburg, after having been beaten near Keyra; the rest having joined themselves to those of Cujavia, of Sochaczow, and of Gostyn, commanded by their Marshals, put themselves in march against the capital, with a view of taking some Russian.

fian posts; but Colonel Prince Gallitzin, having received advice of their design, assembled his brigade, consisting of 800 men, and marched against them; he found them incamped between Blonic and Sochcazow, and attacked them, notwithstanding their being superior in number. The action was long and brisk, but at last they were obliged to retire with the loss of 400 dead on the spot, and 150 prisoners, besides seven pieces of cannon. As this affair happened but four leagues from Warsaw, they took all the precautions they could to make the inhabitants easy, who were very much alarmed.

On the 16th of February, the Sieur de Lutzen, Aid de Camp of Lieut. General Prince Repnin arrived at Warsaw, preceded by four postillions blowing their horns, and brought advice to Prince Wolkonki, that on the 29th of last month, 6,000 Russians, commanded by Lieut. General Stoffeln, near the town of Brailow, intirely defeated a part of the Turkish army consisting of 20,000 men, 4,000 of whom were killed on the spot, and that one General's staff, six horses tails, one large pair of colours, and eleven cannon, had fallen into the hands of the conquerors.

As soon as General Stoffeln had beaten, the body of Turks commanded by Ali Pacha, he caused the
fortress

fortress of Ibrailow directly to be invested, and made the necessary dispositions for besieging it in all its forms. The Turks made all possible resistance on their part, till the 3d of February, when they endeavoured to make their escape, and quit the place without noise. For this purpose, almost all the garrison embarked the following night in three vessels, with the view of crossing the Danube by favour of the dark, and under a terrible fire from all their artillery ; but in spite of these measures, the Turks were not able to conceal their design from the Russian General, who ordered some cannon to be pointed toward the shore, which had all the desired success. For the vessels in which the Turks had embarked, were sunk to the bottom, and the greatest part of those on board drowned. The remainder of the garrison continued still to defend themselves till the next day (the 4th) when the Russians gave the assault at midnight, carried the breach, and put all they met to the sword. They found in the place more than a hundred pieces of cannon, a considerable sum of money, and a very large quantity of warlike stores and provisions. The Turks, when they saw the fortress lost, set fire to the great magazine, with the intention of blowing up both themselves and the Russians ; but the latter, being timely informed of it, ran up, and happily succeeded in extinguishing the flames before they

they had reached the powder-rooms. Among the prisoners was Ali Pacha himself.

Prince Wolonski, the Russian Ambassador at Warsaw, received the following particulars concerning the progress of the Russian affairs in the Morea :— That the Imperial fleet, consisting of 18 men of war of the line, some frigates, and other small vessels, had landed a large quantity of arms and ammunition, for the use of the inhabitants ; who, having joined the Russian troops, had made themselves masters of Calamatra, Misistra, Coron, and Morthon ; and that, after this disembarkation, the Russian fleet had continued their voyage to the Archipelago. It was added, that the Greeks of Corfu and Cephalonia, and even the Jesuits, had taken refuge in the Russian army, being under the most terrible apprehensions of cruel treatment from the common enemy ; that the Turks themselves, who inhabited Greece, Macedonia, and Albania, being seized with a panic, had declared their willingness to submit to her Czarian Majesty, and to pay her tribute ; that the famous Stephano, who personated Peter III. and who commanded the Grecian and Russian army, after the first advantages, thought only of fortifying the places he had taken, and leaving troops, till the arrival of some Russian succours that were soon expected at Avlon ; that he had established

tablished an hospital for the sick, and some magazines at Maina, and that the carpenters worked incessantly in building three Greek vessels, one of 24 guns, and two of 12 each, besides two others of 24 guns each, to be in readiness at Albania, to take on board the expected succours.

The troops of the Empress having made a conquest of Moldavia and Wallachia, the inhabitants of those provinces, had not only taken the oath of fidelity to her Imperial Majesty in the presence of her Generals, but a deputation also arrived here from the States of the provinces, to declare how much they desired to live under the dominion of her Imperial Majesty, and to implore her protection. On the 8th of April, these deputies had an audience of the Empress, who received them very graciously, and gave them the strongest assurances of her regard. The Ministers were employed in concerting the most proper measures to protect those provinces against the attacks of the Ottoman troops.

The Tartars, after passing the Niester, near Balta, began to carry their ravages into Poland, but were repulsed at the first onset. Nevertheless, they rallied again, and endeavoured to regain their own frontiers; but a detachment, commanded by Capt. Stukulow,

Stukulow, came up with them in the neighbourhood of Buda, attacked and defeated them, seized their camp, and took all their baggage. A Sultan, two Mirzas, and 236 private men were killed upon the spot; the booty in horses and cattle was considerable; and 362 Christians and Jews were rescued from slavery.

A corps of 20,000 Turks ventured to cross the Danube, with a view to attack Lieut. Gen. Stofeln, who was in the environs of Bucharest, but he was apprised of their coming by his light troops, and took his measures so well, that he attacked the Turks at a time when they had the least thoughts of it, which lucky event, put them all to flight; 3,000 were killed on the spot, and many taken prisoners: the Russians took likewise, all their baggage and artillery. This battle happened not far from Branhilow.

Abasa Pacha, at the head of twenty or thirty thousand Turks and Tartars, had attempted to attack the van-guard of the Russians commanded by General Bawr. The Turks fled so precipitately, that they left behind them several large pieces of cannon; they were briskly pursued by Prince Repnin, who commanded in the room of General Stofeln.

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The van-guard of the Ottoman army, consisting of 20,000 horse, and about 15,000 foot, commanded by Ali Keli, the Pacha of Bassarabia, had surprised in the night, a body of Russians, who were intrenched between Bucharest and Bender, and for some hours, made great slaughter among the latter, and spiked several cannon; but, by the activity and resolution of the Russian Officers, the enemy, at break of day, were obliged to retreat with precipitation, leaving behind them their artillery, which consisted of twenty-four pieces of small cannon, four standards, and two battoons of command. The Russian hussars, under Colonel Kalmuntz, when the Turks were put into confusion, cut off the retreat of the janissaries, and, after killing about 900, who refused to throw down their arms, took 1,500 prisoners.

The loss of the Russians did not amount to more than 1,300 men, but the Ottomans had left upwards of 3,000 killed and wounded in the field of battle, besides those they left in their retreat.

Early in the campaign, General Prozorowski had been detached to scour the country between the Niester and the Nieper or Boristhenes, in order to keep the Budziac Tartars in awe, and prevent their impeding the operations of Count Panin. This he performed

performed with great effect, having laid waste and ruined the country, taken a great booty in cattle, delivered several thousands of the poor Walachians who had been carried into slavery, and proceeded successfully with his incursions to the very gates of Oczakow, which facilitated the operations of Count Panin, who divided his army into two parts, to besiege the fortress effectually. The trenches were opened on both sides of the river at the same time, and the garrison set fire to the suburbs, after which, a furious cannonade and bombardment were begun from all quarters, and vigorously returned by the town. The garrison made seven desperate sallies, and though the town was twice on fire, they were neither discouraged nor disconcerted by it. The Seraskier, Mahomet Wafa Walissi, who was the governor of the place, was so overcome with grief and despair upon receiving an account of the loss of the two late battles, that he destroyed himself by a dose of poison. Dunin, a Bashaw of three tails, was appointed his successor. The siege of Bender was carried on for near two months, with great industry and resolution on one side, and an obstinate course on the other.

On the 26th of September, when every thing was ready for a storm, General Panin demanded, Whether the fortress would surrender? The Com-
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mandant

mandant answered, That was a question to be asked in a year's time. Upon which; the necessary orders were issued immediately, and the storm began at midnight. The Russians fought with great intrepidity, and the garrison and burghers made a courageous defence; however, the town and fortress were scaled in a very short time, and then a tragical scene ensued; for the Russian soldiery were so furious, that there was no hope of escaping; they threw down and cut to pieces every thing and every body, and it was with great difficulty some Bashaws escaped being killed. The loss of the Russians during the whole siege, was 5000 men killed or wounded. That of the Turks was computed at 30,000, the inhabitants of the place included.

The following is a copy of a letter from General Count de Romanzoff, commander in chief of the Grand Russian army, dated from the camp of the enemy on the Pruth, behind the river Larga, July 18, 1770:—

‘ The letter which I had the honour to write to you of the 25th ult. apprised you of the manner in which the enemy was posted along the Pruth, opposite the body of our army, commanded by me, which post they abandoned on the approach of the army under my command, in order to gain the heights

heights on the way to Bender, a little on this side Reboia Mogila, where they retired, and fortified themselves by strong intrenchments, which they strengthened on every side with a prodigious quantity of cannon. Notwithstanding their situation (which was that of an almost inaccessible mountain, on which was their camp, and their superiority of numbers) we resolved, on the 28th ult. to make a general assault, but, though we used all our diligence, we were not able to reach them till the 15th instant, when we found them posted as before-mentioned, having the Pruth on their right, and Larga on the left. The same day the bravest partisans of the enemy descended the mountain in platoons, to the number of 20,000, who made a shew of attacking our front, but were repulsed with great loss.

The deserters and prisoners all confirm, that the Turkish army was commanded by Caplan Ghieri, Chan of Crimee, who, contrary to custom, and, as a mark of the great confidence of the Sultan, had under him three Bachas, named Ismael, Abasa, and Abda, the latter of whom joined them by the right of the Pruth, and had under him a large body of excellent troops, which joined the main body, and made altogether 80,000 men. Notwithstanding their advantageous situation, I resolved to come

to a decisive engagement, which I began at day-break, on the 18th, and ended in a most complete victory on our side; for, as soon as our men had gained the summit of the mountain, they drove the enemy out of four intrenchments successively, till they fled in the utmost confusion, and abandoned to us their whole extensive camp, and an immense quantity of all sorts of amunition and provisions, together with 38 pieces of fine brass cannon, and a great number of colours.’

The following account of the victory which the Russians gained over the Turks on the left side of the Danube, near the mouth of the little river Cahul, was sent by General de Romanzow to the Empress:—

‘ The Ottoman army, after having passed the Danube, came and incamped the 31st of last month, within seven werstes of ours, and in our sight upon the left shore of the Cahul, with an intention to attack us. The Khan of Crimea, with all his hordes, did not join the Turks, but he posted himself at first upon the borders of a rivulet, called Salzcha, opposite our left flank; but, observing that Count Romanzow had detached a large party of horse, and foot, to cover the provisions that were coming from Salzcha, he went to engage them in order to seize
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our provisions, and fall upon us in the rear; in which design he was defeated. Count Romanzow, notwithstanding the superior forces of the enemy, relying upon the bravery of his troops, began to attack, at four o'clock in the morning; he forced his way to the enemy's camp, though surrounded by three intrenchments, and much better fortified than that upon the river Larga, under the command of the Khan of Crimea. He was obliged to fight his way through numerous brave troops, who had surrounded him at the distance of three werstes from his camp, and who were supported by a strong cannonade for five hours together. Count Romanzow, by the activity of his artillery and musquetry, and particularly by the good discipline and courage of his soldiers, who marched close with bayonets fixed at the end of their muskets, found himself, at nine o'clock in the morning, before the enemy's intrenchments. The Grand Visier, far from being discouraged, made a sally with all his Janisaries, and the bravest of his soldiers, but they were intirely defeated. Then the Russians, in spite of the sword and fire of the Turks, forced their intrenchments; where the Grand Visier, being no longer able to stand his ground, was intirely routed, and fled towards the Danube with Potocki, and some other confederates, who were but 25 werstes from it. The Imperial troops took the whole Turkish

camp, baggage, and artillery, which consisted, upon the first view of it, of 130 pieces of cannon. The loss of the Russians is very moderate, and that of the Turks is considerable: the roads are full of dead bodies of the Turks.'

General Romanzow, wrote also, the following account to the Russian Ambassador in Warsaw:—
 'The small remains of the Turkish army are easily to be seen from the side of this Danube; they are at present near Isaccia. The deserters from thence, mention, that the Visier is there at present himself; that he has put many Bashaws in irons, and yesterday, beheaded four of them; in a word, the Turkish troops, who have escaped from us and crossed the Danube, (in doing which, many were drowned) have dispersed themselves in different parts, and an uncommon and deadly fear reigns among them all. Among the prisoners at Ismailow, are 20 of the principal Turkish officers.'

An ordonnance was now published by the Empress of Russia, commanding all who professed the Jewish religion, to depart her dominions in a limited time. The reason assigned, was, that these people held a correspondence with her enemies,

The following is an extract of a private letter
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from Count Tottleben, dated from Cotatis, the 27th of July:—

‘ After I had overcome the most unthought-of plots and treacheries, and had brought the body of men intrusted to my care by the Empress, even by force, together, out of the mountains of Caucasus, and from Testis to Russia, I had the good fortune not only to take all Georgia and its fortresses, Annaleri, Tuchet, Ismpole, Gorefuram, and Alexis, from the deceiver Heraclius, and lodged Imperial troops in Testis, but have also plundered the Turkish fortresses of Scheripa, Bagdad, and Cotatis, all of which were well provided with artillery, and have made the three commanding Bashaws, with as many Agas and garrisons, prisoners of war. The Czar Solomon, Imoesten, the Patriarch, and all the inhabitants of this extensive dominion, as also Georgia, have taken the oath of fidelity and subjection to her Imperial Majesty. I have now but three short days journey to go to proclaim the glorious name of my illustrious sovereign in the Black-Sea.’

The important town of Cotatis was taken at length by assault. The Turkish garrison were put to the sword, so that the Russian troops were able to make only 170 prisoners, besides setting at li-

berly the Janerettes and other Christians in the city. They took, moreover, four pair of colours, seventeen cannon, and a large quantity of warlike stores. General Tottleben had blocked up the town for some time, but, the Turks defending themselves obstinately, he battered the castle in breach, and carried the place sword in hand.

The following conditions of peace were now proposed by the Court of Petersburg to the Grand Signior :

‘ 1. The liberty of a free navigation in the Black Sea. 2. The cession of all Crimea for ever. 3. The independence of the Tartars, who are no longer to be subject to the Ottoman Porte in any degree. 4. The cession of Moldavia, Walachia, and Bessarabia, which provinces, however, the Russians do not intend to take possession of in their own right, but will transfer them to two other foreign Princes, who are not named. 5. The payment of twenty millions of roubles to reimburse the Russians the expence they have been at on account of the present war.’

These demands on the part of Russia so exasperated the Grand Signior, that he rejected them with disdain, and determined to risk another campaign, and to command his army in person.

Prince

Prince Gallitzin, the Russian Minister at the Hague, received a letter from Count Romanzow, dated March 15, 1771, giving an account of his having taken the town and fortrefs of Guirgiu, on the Danube, which was defended obstinately by 10,000 Turks, and covered by two intrenchments, from both which they were driven, with the loss of 4,000 men killed; after which the remainder retired to the castle for several days, when a magazine of powder blowing up, the remainder, amounting to about 3,000, on account of the want of provisions, were suffered to join the main body of their army. Sixty-two pieces of brass cannon, two mortars, and a vast quantity of warlike stores were likewise taken. The Russians had only 400 killed, and 800 wounded; among the latter, the Generals Gottenhelm and Molino, and Colonel Count Natali.

April 29, Major-General Wießman passed the Danube, near Tulchi, with 800 grenadiers, in order to make a diversion, while an attack was made on this side the river, by General Potemkin, upon the fortrefs of Torno. Notwithstanding Tulchi was defended by a garrison of 3,000 men, and several batteries. M. Wießman began the attack, and with his small body of troops intirely routed the garrison, took several prisoners, con-

veyed part of the cannon away in small boats, spiked up the remainder, and pursued the enemy to a considerable distance. The Grand Vizier, being informed of this enterprize by a spy, dispatched seven large vessels to destroy the boats which transported our troops; but our forces, perceiving this fleet was intended to prevent their retreat, embarked with the greatest expedition; and immediately attacked and seized six of the enemy's vessels. General Wiefman repassed the river and returned safe to Ismail.

Some short time after Major General Weissman, having again passed the Danube with 1,500 grenadiers, attacked the city of Isaccia, in which were 6,000 Turks, commanded by two Pachas: he made himself master of the place, nailed up 50 pieces of cannon, burnt the grand magazine and many vessels laden with ammunition, and returned safely to Ismail, with some pieces of cannon, other trophies, a galley, several vessels, and 100 Turkish prisoners. In this expedition he set at liberty upwards of 500 Christian families, who returned with his detachment to Ismail.

The Russian Ambassador, who had been so long confined at Constantinople, was now released, and escorted with all possible honour and respect through the Turkish dominions to Adrianople.

Extract

Extract of a letter from the Field Marshal (Count de Romanzow) dated from the army near Wolzelsky, June 18, to his Excellency the Count de Saldern. Ambassador from Russia at this Court.

“ I have the honour to announce to you by this letter, the happy success of our arms, but at the same time must acquaint you with a melancholy accident, which as I am well assured, may be divulged by those that envy us, as a great loss to us; I mean that the Major Commandant Henkel has surrendered to the enemy the fortress of Giurgiewo, in an unheard of manner, since according to his own confession, he was provided with every thing necessary to make a most vigorous defence. I thought it my duty to apprize you of this immediately, that you may stop the mouth of those who might speak of this affair contrary to truth. I hope that Prince Repnin, who commands in that part, will soon repair the loss..

“ P. S. This moment news was brought from Bucharest and Cronstadt, that the Turks, encouraged by the taking of Giurgiewo, had passed the Danube, to the number of 60,000 men, and had attacked Prince Repnin, who was posted between Bucharest and Giurgiewo with 30,000. The engagement was obstinate and bloody, and lasted five

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hours, when the Russians gained a complete victory. The Turks lost 30,000 men, who were left on the field of battle; among whom there are 3 Agas, 180 pieces of cannon, and 5,000 prisoners, and several trophies were taken from them during the pursuit by the Russian hunters; the number of those who were drowned in the Danube is very considerable."

June 23d, Prince Dolgorucki arrived before Precup, at the head of the second Imperial army, and on the 25th of the same month, at six o'clock in the morning, he had happily succeeded in forcing the lines at the first attack, notwithstanding they were defended by the fortress of that name, and guarded by an army composed, according to the report of the prisoners, of 50,000 Tartars and 7,000 Turks, which the Khan Selim Girey commanded in person. The attack began at two in the morning. Major-general Count de Muszid-Puschkin, who commanded the right wing of the army, marched in four columns on the side of the Black Sea; and Major-general Proscrowski, who commanded the left wing, on the side of Siwasch; Brigadier Prince de Gallitzin was with the former, and the Major-generals, Princes Peter and Alexis de Gallitzin, were with the latter. As soon as the signal was given for the attack, the Russian troops began

began with an astonishing ardour and impetuosity. The Khan at first opposed the efforts of their left wing in person, but, not being able to withstand the bravery of the Russians, he turned off towards their right wing, in hopes by his presence to encourage his troops, which he found ranged in order of battle, to do their duty; but all this was to no purpose; he was obliged to give way to the courage of the Russian troops, and seek his safety with his men by a shameful flight. The counterscarp of the ditch, which the Russian troops climbed over with an amazing intrepidity, in presence of an army of 60,000 men, was six fathom and a half high; the scarp was thirteen, and the ditch eight fathom in breadth. There was but one officer killed, and only four wounded; the number of subaltern officers and soldiers, killed or wounded, amounted only to 100, which was a very inconsiderable loss, considering the importance of the advantage gained on that glorious day. The Russian trophies consisted in 40 pieces of cannon taken from the enemy, and a great quantity of powder and ball. The fortress of Precop had sent deputies to capitulate.

The garrison of Precop surrendered on the 26th of June prisoners of war. The Russian army continued its march, on the 27th, in the view of penetrating

netrating farther into the country. The soldiery were in high spirits, and abundantly provided with all sorts of necessaries.

Before Prince Dolgorucki forced the lines of Precop, he had detached Prince Czerbatoff to take possession of Arabat, in marching by Genitsch and the neck of land on the side of the sea of Axoff; and, after the taking of Precop, he sent Major-general Brawn with another detachment to make himself master of Kostoff; but the Turkish garrison did not wait his arrival, but, demolishing the fortifications, embarked on board some vessels which were there, in order to repass into their own country; so that General Brawn took possession of the place without striking a stroke. The garrison of Arabat, however, consisting of between 700 and 800 men, held firm; but Prince Czerbatoff, attacking the fortress, carried it by assault, and the greater part of them were thus destroyed or made prisoners. In the mean time Prince Dolgorucky marched to within thirty-five werstes of Caffa; after having defeated 27,000 Turks under the walls of Caffa, he took that fortress, and made the Seraskier and 1,000 men prisoners; the rest of the garrison, with the Albasa Bassa, made their escape in vessels. At the same time the Turks left the fortress of Jegnicale, and the castle of Kertich, which commands
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the entrance of the lake of Azof and the Black Sea. In the fortrefs were found 70 pieces of cannon, and a large magazine of provisions and arms.

General Essen, taking advantage of the Turks neglecting to guard the passage of the Argis, marched the 15th of August against Giurgewo. In the second day's march he met the advanced posts of the Turks, whom he defeated, after which he penetrated to the 2d moat of the fortress, in which there was a pallisadoe. The Russians were stopped at this place, as they did not perceive the pallisadoe, it being covered by the water in the moat. The Turks, who waited for them at that passage, redoubled their fire, and killed Colonel Pocunkow, and many officers, and forced them to retire in disorder. Lieutenant-general Essen was slightly wounded in the foot, but Major-general Czartoriski, and the Generals Aufufur and Hussowicz, were dangerously wounded. The Russians had 700 men killed, and 2,500 wounded. They left eight pieces of cannon, passed the Argis precipitately, and were much harrassed by the Turkish cavalry. The Ottomans lost very few men on that occasion, but this action was fatal to Sultan Mazoud Guerai, who was drowned as he was going to the castle to animate his men, by the bridge being greatly

greatly battered by the Russians, and which fell in as he was passing over it.

Count Oginsky, great General of Lithuania, succeeded so well in surprising the Russian troops, under the command of Colonel Albyczew, that they were defeated. Encouraged by this success, he designed the same fate for the corps under Colonel Duering, but that commander being aware of his intentions, harassed the great General, by his marches and countermarches, so much, as to disappoint his scheme; in consequence of which he changed his march towards the fortress of Nieswitz, defended by a Russian garrison of 100 men, in order either to take it, or to force Mr. Duering to a battle; but the Colonel frustrated his designs by a forced march, and posted himself under the cannon of Nieswitz. Count Oginsky being thus again disappointed, turned towards Novogrodek; Mr. Duering followed him on his right, and observed all his motions. At last, being much fatigued, and thinking himself safe, the great General resolved to halt and rest his troops in the village of Stollowitza. General Souworoff, who was not far off, no sooner was informed of it, but he went immediately towards that place, attacked it sword in hand on four sides at once, in the night between the 22d and 23d of September, and after
some

some resistance he took all those who did not escape by flight. Most of the cavalry dispersed themselves; but all the infantry surrendered. Ten pieces of cannon, the military chest, consisting of 50,000 ducats, and some large cases of silver coin, the chancery, and all the baggage, became the booty of the conquerors. Count Oginsky, with only two more, escaped, with great difficulty. He went incog, through Dantzic. Such was the event of this Confederacy, which appeared to some very alarming. The chief of it did not long enjoy the laurels acquired at so cheap a rate, by the defeat of Colonel Albyczew's corps, whose death was gloriously and completely revenged by his brave countrymen.

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

The life of the King of Poland attempted.—His escape and humane conduct.—Further account of the war.—A suspension of arms.—Various occurrences.—Peace concluded.—Execution of Pugatscheff the Impostor.—Taxes abolished.—Prisoners released, &c.—Grand procession in compliment to Marshal Romanzow.—Gratifications and rewards.

AN attempt was now made on the life of the the King of Poland, who had been seized by a party of the rebels. Lukeſki, chief of the aſſaſſins, and who tore from the King the order of Prussia, ordered Koſiński to give the King the coup de grace.

Koſiński led the King into the wood of Merri-
mont, to make an end of him there; but hearing
the noiſe of horſemen, who were indeed people in
queſt of his Maſteſty, he was terrified at the peril
he was in. The villain was ſo perplexed and agi-
tated, that he delayed the execution of his pur-
poſe. The King obſerving his reſolution altered,
availed himſelf of it. Koſiński ſaid to him, “ I
know

know that to kill a King is a great sin, but I have taken an oath to kill you." His Majesty answered. " I see thou art not yet grown grey in thy iniquity : if thou knowest it to be a great sin to kill the King, how didst thou dare to take an oath to commit a sin ?" Kosinski replied ; " But I have however taken that oath, and at last if I do not kill thee, I shall lose my own head." Upon which the King answered, " If thou believest me to be a King, thou oughtest to believe that I have power to spare thy life." At last Kosinski giving way to remorse of conscience, confessed that he shuddered at the thoughts of killing his Sovereign, and knew not what to do. His Majesty proposed to him to go to Warsaw with him, but Kosinski still expressed some fear, for said he, " It is common to promise many things in a case of necessity, which cannot afterwards be granted. The King then proposed to him, " that if he would not trust to his word, he might leave him alone, and make his escape." Kosinski, convinced then of his Majesty's sincerity, declared that he would go with the King to Warsaw, although he deserved to lose his head, but that he was unacquainted with the road ;" in consequence he consented that the King should conduct him. The King was now lodged in a miller's cottage, whence he sent a billet to General Count Coccegi, which was conceived in the following-

lowing terms : ' I am delivered from the hands of my assassins, by an immediate act of Providence. Hasten to me with forty soldiers. I am wounded, but not dangerously.

Signed, STANISLAUS AUGUSTUS.'

The day of his Majesty's return, he wrote a letter to the Empress of Russia, giving the particulars of his seizure, and happy escape. Kosinski, in the course of the interrogatories, which he underwent, made some surprising discoveries, wherein several persons of consequence were said to be concerned. Himself, with two other chiefs of the Confederates, took an oath on the image of the Holy Virgin, to the Sieur Pulawski, that they would kill the King. The monster Pulawski, since the attempt upon the King's life, was defeated by the Russians, and fled to Czentochau with only about 50 of his men. Lukaski was taken the next day, three miles from Warsaw, proclaiming every where that he had killed the King by order of the generality.

The Grand Chancellor, Bishop of Warsaw and Posenania, wrote and sent a pastoral letter to every curate of his diocese, in which he ordained that they should expose to the parishioners the great heinousness of regicide, and guard the youth in all their schools

schools against some seditious and fanatic ecclesiastics, who would inspire them with contrary sentiments. This precaution was deemed necessary, as the prisoners in custody for attempting to kill the King, declared that they had absolution from some religious, before they set out on that horrid attempt.

Aug. 4, 1771. Whilst the Chamber at Warsaw was sitting on the judgment of the regicides, his Polish Majesty came into, and being seated on the throne, interceded in the most pathetic manner, not only for the life of the man who saved him and brought him back, but for all the others, representing them as the innocent victims of the infamous projects of their superiors, and being obliged to obey at the risk of their lives, the orders of their commanders. His Majesty spared no pains or arguments with the Judges in their favour. The Chamber, however, thought necessary, by the punishment of some, to make a proper example.

Count Romanzow, had now discovered that the different corps of Ottoman troops were uniting themselves near Giurgewo and Crajowa, and on the right side of the Danube, probably to finish the campaign by one bold stroke, before they left the army, as is their custom. With this view, the
Grand

Grand Vizier had ordered the Seraskier Mousson Oglow Pacha, to attack the corps of Russian troops in Walachia, and to make himself master of that province, whilst he (the Vizier) would remain near Babadagh with part of his army, and two corps of troops strongly entrenched, and under the town and castle of Tulcza, and the other near Maczin, under the command of Abdi Bacha. Count Romanzow to keep off all the enemies forces, and quietly to enter his winter-quarters, made several masterly dispositions, all of which were attended with the greatest success, and what is very extraordinary, they were all brought to bear at the same time.

On the 20th of October, Major General Geisman attacked Tulcza, and Major Gen. Miloradowitz attacked Maczin, and after having forced the two Turkish entrenchments, they made themselves masters of the two towns, and their castles, where they found a great quantity of artillery, ammunition, provision, and all the baggage of the two Turkish corps. The following night General Weisman marched towards Babadagh, where the Vizier Selihtar Mahomet Pacha had a grand entrenchment, a great quantity of artillery, and most part of the military chests. After General Weisman had dispersed the different Turkish detachments,

who

who came to oppose his march, he attacked the Grand Vizier, and drove him out of his camp, which he took, as also the town and castle of Babadagh. The Grand Vizier fled by the road to Bafarezi, situated 30 miles from thence in the mountains; General Weifman, taking advantage of the terror, and having sent more than 50 pieces of cannon on the other side of the Danube, went himself, the 23d of October towards Isaccia, intending to drive the enemy from thence. Lieutenant General Effex had totally defeated the army of Seraskier Mousson Oglou, and had taken all their artillery and baggage.

On the 31st of October, Lieutenant-General Effex engaged with so much advantage in the neighbourhood of Bucharest, a considerable body of the enemy's troops commanded by the Seraskier Mousson Oglou Pacha, that the enemy lost upon this occasion near 2,000 men, who were killed on the spot, and 1,350, who were taken prisoners. An immense booty, 10 colours, and 14 pieces of cannon fell into the hands of the conquerors, who, in pursuing the rest of the enemy's army, which was routed, took 30 more pieces of cannon, and obliged 2,000 men to lay down their arms, and surrender themselves prisoners of war. The consequence of this victory was the retaking of Giurgewo, which the
 Russians.

Russians took possession of the 4th inst. where they found a great quantity of cannon and several magazines well stocked. Marshal Pulawski was beaten by Colonel Lange, who had set a price of 12,000 ducats upon his head.

On the 30th of May 1772, a suspension of arms was concluded at Giurgewo between the Russians and the Turks, the principal articles of which were as follow :

1. All hostilities and military operations shall cease between the Russian and Ottoman troops.

2. The Russian troops in the neighbourhood of Giurgewo, and upon the left shore of the Danube, and the Turkish troops which are posted over against that town, on the right shore of the Danube, shall observe the suspension of arms from the day of its being signed, and those in the other territories in Europe and in Asia from the time of their receiving advice of it.

3. The two armies shall continue in the situation they are in at present during the suspension of arms. The Danube shall be the boundary of the two armies. No new successes shall be erected on either side, and the places which were demolished towards the end of the last campaign shall not be repaired.

4. The

4. The Ottoman Porte agrees, that, from the place where the Congress is held, a courier be dispatched by Constantinople to the Archipelago, to let the Russian commanders, by sea and land, know that the suspension of arms is agreed upon; that he may concert proper measures, with the Turkish commanders, to stop all warlike operations in those parts.

5. This suspension of arms is to extend over all Crimea and the Black Sea, so that no Turkish armed vessel shall be permitted to enter the Danube or the Niester, neither shall any Turkish vessel appear in any of the ports of the Crimea, unless forced in there by distress; but all the vessels at present in the Danube are allowed the free navigation of that river. If, notwithstanding all these precautions, any dispute should arise between the inhabitants of each side the river, the Commissaries are to settle matters between them.

6. The Ottoman Porte engages not to fortify the fortresses of Oczakow and Kiburn during the suspension of arms, nor send troops or build magazines there; but the Porte is left at liberty to keep up the troops they have there at present, and to provide for their inhabitants; and, if any vessels laden with provisions for those places should by any

misfortune be thrown upon the coast of Besarabia or Crimea, all possible assistance shall be given them that they be not hindered from prosecuting their voyage.

7. When any Russian ships laden with provisions for Crimea or the Danube shall be driven by any misfortune into any of the Turkish ports either in Europe or Asia, every necessary assistance shall be given them.

8. In Kuban and Georgia, and wherever there are any troops, all warlike operations shall cease as soon as they receive advice of the suspension of arms. All fortresses and places are to remain in the hands of those in whose possession they are when the account of the suspension of arms arrives; and, with respect to those districts where lines of separation are to be made, every thing will in consequence of this suspension of arms be settled amicably.

9. This suspension of arms is to continue in force in Moldavia, Walachia, Besarabia, Crimea, the Kuban, and in all the provinces and territories of the two parties; and likewise on the other side of and in the Black Sea, without mentioning any certain time, till those who are empowered to negotiate the peace are assembled, who will open the

the Congress immediately, and be at liberty to lengthen or shorten this suspension as they shall think most to the advantage of the two powers; but, in case a peace should not take place, ' then the suspension of arms in Georgia, Mingrelia, and the neighbouring countries, shall continue in force till the first of October next, on account of the great distance of those places. And, for the rest, that no advantage shall be taken from this suspension of arms to increase their conquests on either side.

10. The places in Moldavia or Walachia, where the Congress is to be held, shall be appointed within eight days after the chiefs of both armies shall have ratified this convention.'

June 10. A terrible fire at Moscow, destroyed above 1,000 houses, and another at Oestiga, June 23, consumed 12 churches, 6 ships loaded with corn, and almost the whole town.

June 7. General Weissman attacked, at eight in the morning, a detachment of the Ottoman army, commanded by Arnault and Hostau Pacha; the attack was so furious that the Turks took flight, after having 1,500 men killed on the spot, and leaving to the Russians some hundreds of prisoners, with nine colours, sixteen cannon, and all their

baggage. The Turks fled to Bazergick, and were pursued ten werstes. This attack was so sudden, that the cavalry only were engaged, otherwise the Turks must have been entirely cut to pieces.

Great havock was made near Babahdag, of which the Turks complained of contrary to all rules of war. The mine, they said, which committed this havock, must have been dug during the armistice. From hence they inferred that the Russians never entered into the negociation for a peace with sincerity, but made use of that pretext only to draw them into an ambush, and so entrap them to their destruction. The fact, however, was this: A number of the Russians had passed the Danube, and entrenched themselves near Babahdag; a body of 15,000 Turks were sent to dislodge them. As soon as they approached the Russian intrenchment, the mine was sprung, and the whole corps, dreadful to relate! at one infernal blast instantly blown to atoms.

The naval forces of Russia were as successful as the land. The fleet under Count Orlov had gained repeated victories.. The squadron, which some time since had attacked and taken the city of Candia on the island of the same name, left a garrison there, and proceeded to Cyprus with the same intent.

intent. They first attempted a landing at Famagusta, but were beat off from thence by the Turks, the harbour not being capable of receiving ships of large burthen; the Russians attempted landing in their boats and shallow gallies, but were incessantly beat off by the cannon and small arms from the shore. From Famagusta the squadron immediately proceeded for Linosa, where the Hesperus and several other European vessels of different nations lay; who were commanded by the Russians not to stir out of the harbour till they had effected a landing of their troops, which, after a smart cannonading between the ships and the castle, was effected, and the town abandoned to the enemy; the inhabitants, soldiers, &c. having retired to Nicosin, the capital of the island, which the Russians were marched against when the Hesperus left Linosa.

The united bodies of the Generals Weissman and Potemkin passed the Danube below Brahilow, the 18th and 19th of June, 1773, and marched directly towards Lake Karafer, where they found a detachment of Ottomans in a sort of entrenchment. The Russian cavalry having advanced forward were attacked by the Ottoman horse, and driven back on their foot, who, in their turn, drove back the Ottoman horse, during which time the Ottoman foot had left their entrenchments, and joined

Seraskier Numan Pacha. After this the whole Russian army passed the river between the 20th and 24th, without loss.

Generals Weissman and Potemkin were detached the next day, with 15,000 men, to invest Silistria, which was defended by three Pachas and 24,000 men, who, on the 27th, marked out the posts where they thought proper to make an assault. General Potemkin attacked, at break of day, an entrenchment of Turks, placed on a mountain that commanded the town, which the Turks defended with the greatest bravery, killed vast numbers of Russians, and, leaving their entrenchments, pursued them to the bottom of the mountain: General Weissman, profiting from the imprudence of the conquerors, caused some Russian regiments to march up the mountain, and take possession of their lines, which obliged the Turks to march into the town.

On the 29th the whole Russian army assembled before Silistria. Marshal Romanzow made the necessary dispositions for the assault, but could not execute it on account of the continual sallies of the Turks. In the mean time the Marshal having received advice that the Grand Vizier had detached 50,000 men to the assistance of the besieged, and that himself intended to march to cut off the retreat
of

of the Russians, determined to raise the siege, and, to cover his design, orders were given to keep up a brisk fire during the night of the 30th, when he began his retreat in good order.

On the 1st of July they arrived at a defile, which they were necessitated to pass, which was defended by 13,000 Turks. General Weissman immediately fell on the front of them, having first detached some regiments to flank the Turks. The Turks opposed them with great valour, and intirely surrounded the rear-guard. It was at this instant General Weissman fell, when he was leading some of his broken troops to a fresh attack. Happy for the Russians, at this time their detached regiments flanked the Turks, who, thinking them more numerous than they were, left the defile, and the Russians marched through it, and repassed the river the 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th of July, and the 7th sung Te Deum. The Russians lost about 10,000 men and the Turks rather more.

An attempt was made in November upon Varna by the Russians, in which they were not altogether successful. Having detached three corps, one of which had taken post at Bazardzik, the second between Bazardzik and Varna, and the third, which was the most numerous, the Russians had advanced towards Varna; the two first were destined to cut

off the communication between the Grand Vizier's army and these two places. The first of these corps put to flight an Ottoman detachment posted at Bazardzik and carried the place, but the runaways found means to avoid the second Russian detachment, and enter Varna. Dagestanli Ali Bashaw, having at the same time heard of the march of the Russians to Bazarzik, marched in all haste against them, and, although he arrived too late to prevent their taking the place, he entirely defeated them; and the Bostanghi Baschi, of Adrianople, was also so fortunate as to beat the second detachment. These actions happened on the 11th and 12th of December, the last of which days the Russians made the greatest effort on Varna, with ten regiments of foot. The attack was very bloody; the Turks at first were worsted, but, being reinforced by the men that fled from Bazardzik, they obliged the Russians in their turn to retire and abandon 19 pieces of cannon. The Russians suffered considerably in their retreat, for Bostanghi Baschi, having met them, cut part of them to pieces. The Grand Vizier had advanced at first to reinforce the garrisons of Varna and the other places, and assist them in case they should be attacked by the Russians, but, having learnt the defeat of the latter, he returned to his old camp at Chiumla. That General detached the Seraskier Hassan Bashaw towards Silistria. It

was.

was reported, that the Russians retired beyond the Danube, and preserved only their posts of Hirfowa and Babahdag. In the mean time, great quantities of ammunition and provisions were daily sent to the army, which was reinforced by a great number of recruits. The Captain Bashaw of the Black Sea, received orders to stay near Varna.

On the 18th of April, 1774, the Empress received at Czarsko Zelo, by two officers of rank, the important and agreeable news, that the rebels, in number nine or ten thousand men, commanded by the impostor Pugatscheff, who styled himself Peter III. had been entirely defeated, and that he himself, with difficulty escaped with four of his companions. Seeing the body of troops under General Prince de Gallitzin advance, in order to engage him, and rescue the town of Orenbourg, which he kept shut up, he had assembled his best troops in the fortress of Tatishewa, on the river Yain, which lay in the way to Orenbourg. Prince Gallitzin attacked this place the 2d of April, and carried it sword in hand. The rebels had two thousand men killed on the spot, 3,000 taken prisoners, and lost 36 pieces of cannon. The rest were dispersed, and the impostor himself, with difficulty escaped. He afterwards went to another fortress called Berda,

not far from Orenbourg, where there were 4 or 5,000 of his men. However, he had not time to take shelter there, for the Governor of Orenbourg, hearing of his defeat, sent a large detachment to make an attack upon the rebels at that place, and he, with about 1,000 men, in a panic, abandoned Berda; Prince Gallitzin sent parties every way to intercept the scattered remains of them; those who remained at Berda, surrendered to the Governor of Orenbourg, and great numbers continued daily to surrender. The loss of the Russians was about 150 men.

The corps under the Generals Kameniski and Suwarow, soon after the passage of the Danube, attacked the body of troops under the command of the Reis Effendi, amounting to 40,000 men, which having made no manner of resistance, was instantly routed: the whole Turkish camp was taken, together with 32 pieces of brass cannon: very few men were killed on either side. A separate party of the Turks, having attacked Count Soltikow, were vigorously repulsed, and 2,500 Turks left dead in the field. Her Imperial Majesty made Marshal Romanzow a present of six pieces of cannon which were taken from the Turks. The Russian troops consisted only of 9,000 men.

Those

Those who returned to the army of the Grand Vizier, plundered the tents and baggage of the unfortunate Abdoel Refak Reis Effendi, who was afterwards banished; and they would have murdered him, if he had not found means to make his escape. The victorious Russians, in order to turn his rout to their advantage, advanced towards the Grand Vizier, and made, as if they would attack him, when the whole Turkish cavalry, being seized with a panic, took flight, after having plundered the camp, and left the Grand Vizier at Schoemna, where he intrenched himself with his infantry, having taken the precaution to send the military chest, the standard of Mahomet, and the chancery to Adrianople. Three French officers, a Polish nobleman, and a French serjeant, who went lately with a train of artillery to the army of the Grand Vizier, returned in a few days with the run-aways. They said it was impossible to form an idea of the terror which had seized the Turkish troops, who, imagining they could not make head against the enemy, were plundering the country through which they passed, and murdering the inhabitants. Their servants and surgeon met with the same fate, and themselves were in great danger. All the artillery cast by the Chevalier Tott, except three pieces of cannon, fell into the hands of the Russians. The army of the Grand Vizier, which was composed of

200,000 men, was now reduced to about 40,000 by defeats and desertion. Ten thousand Spahis came from thence in order to return into Asia. All the good words and offers of money that were given them, were not sufficient to engage them to return to the army; they threatened the Vizier and the Ministry in such frightful terms, that they found themselves under a necessity to grant them a passage.

On the 4th of July, some more changes were made in the Ministry. On the 5th, the Caimacan Abdoellah Pacha was removed from his post, and banished into Asia. He was succeeded by Issed Mehemed Effendi. The Bostangi Bochy was likewise discharged, and his place given to an officer of his corps.

On the 17th. of July, peace was concluded between Russia and the Porte, at the head quarters at Buyak Canarochi, and signed on the part of their respective sovereigns by Prince Repnin, who had powers from the Marshal Count Romanzow for that purpose, and two Turkish Plenipotentiaries named by the Grand Vizier. The principal articles of which were—The independency of the Crimea—The absolute cession to Russia of Kinburn, Kerche, and Jenickale; and of all the district between

tween the Bog and the Dnieper—A free navigation in all the Turkish seas ; in which was included the passage through the Dardanelles, with all the privileges and immunities which are granted to the most favoured nations—Several stipulations in favour of the inhabitants of Moldavia and Wallachia, as well as those of the islands restored by Russia to the Porte ; the detail of which, the Marshal had not yet specified, reserving farther particulars till he sent the ratification, which he had stipulated with the Grand Vizier, should be signed on or before the 26th of July, and which he meant to transmit by Prince Repnin—Russia was to retain Azoff and Taganrok.

Marshal Romanzow's son, who brought the news of peace, was advanced to the rank of the Major-General ; and Count Soltikow was made General in Chief.

Peace with the Ottoman Porte was accordingly proclaimed at Petersburg, in four different parts by a Major of the Guards, who officiated as herald on that occasion ; and immediately afterwards her Imperial Majesty, accompanied by the Great Duke and Duchess, proceeded to the church of Casan, where, after the celebration of Mass, Te Deum was sung, at which all the nobility and foreign Ministers
were

were present. In the evening there was a brilliant court at the Summer Palace.

The corps which accompanied Pugatscheff the Impostor, had been again defeated : accordingly he fled into an open country, where he was soon taken and carried to Moscow in an iron cage. He was publicly executed with four of his accomplices, January 21, 1775. Pugatscheff, with his principal associate Perfilief, was beheaded—three others were hanged, and 18 more underwent the knout, and were sent to Siberia. If the sentence had been justly fulfilled on Pugatscheff, his hands and feet should have been first cut off and shewn to the people before the final operation took place, but through some singular mistake, the executioner cut off his head first ; a mistake, which subjected the executioner to the loss of his tongue. Pugatscheff was thus punished, merely for the murders, robberies and devastations committed by him, and his followers : the Empress having previously remitted the crime of treason against herself. Pugatscheff met his fate with the most undaunted resolution, but was induced to acknowledge the justice of his sentence, and the deception he had used with his true name and condition. He was by birth of the first rank and condition among the Cossacks, and went through a series of the most extraordinary adventures

tures of any man living. It was said, that an observation made some years before by Count Totleben of the striking resemblance which he bore to Peter III. induced him to undertake the imposition.

The Empress commiserating the distress of the provinces which were lately the seat of rebellion, was pleased to advance to them a million and a half of roubles for ten years, at the rate of one per cent. for the first three years, and three per cent. for the remaining seven. It was distributed among the proprietors of the peasants, in the proportion of 40 roubles for every man lost by them in the late troubles. She also issued an Ukage, whereby various taxes were abolished, some of which were laid on during the late war, and others were of old standing.

The taxes abolished, which were laid on during the late war, were the tax of 80 copecks over and above that of one rouble, 20 copecks paid by merchants and handicraftsmen. The tax of 100 roubles on each funnel or iron-work—ditto of five roubles on each furnace in copper founderies: ditto of four copecks on each pood of cast-iron. The tenths of founded brass. The tenths of the capitats

tats employed in mines of every kind. The additional tax of one rouble per annum on each weaver's loom employed in fabrics, or by private persons in their own houses : as likewise the tax of one per cent. on the value of every other kind of manufactured goods. The taxes upon the estates of the Livonian noblemen. A general liberty was also given to establish manufactories without the permission of the colleges.

Amongst the taxes of old standing which were now abolished, were the tax on tanners and skinner's work—ditto on wax—tallow melting—soap works—oil manufactories—private salt-works, iron, malts and hops grown and made here. The prohibition was taken off all the towns and villages in the empire of erecting smiths shops, and small iron-works, and they were henceforth permitted to manufacture and trade in all kinds of iron. Several other permissions of less importance were also granted, and a general pardon to all persons concerned in the rebellion, with an injunction to bury every thing relative thereto in oblivion ; a release was likewise granted to all prisoners who had been confined for any crimes whatever, for the space of ten years, without judgment having been passed upon them ; nor was any crime committed so long ago as ten years

years without being brought to light, to be examined into: all insolvent debtors, who had been confined for five years, were to be released: all heirs of persons, who were indebted to the Crown, were discharged from the payment of such debts: all nobles, serving as subaltern officers, were to be subject to no other penalties than such as had been inflicted on their superior officers; nor were the corporal punishments of the private men, to be, for the future, so severe, or so ignominious, as they had hitherto been.

Count Alexis Orlow published a manifesto, the substance of which was, "That the Empress of Russia, his sovereign, pardoned the Republic of Ragusa, the hostilities committed against her, on condition that Republic would, for the future, observe the most scrupulous neutrality, and allow the Russian Consul the same prerogatives that the other Consuls enjoyed: particularly, that of having a chapel in his house, for the exercise of the Russia-Greek religion."

July 20th, Marshal Romanzow arrived at Kolomiski, near Moscow, and was received by the Empress with great satisfaction: he declined the honour of a triumphal entry, which was intended him,
and

and for which magnificent preparations had been made. The next morning, the Empress, accompanied by the Grand Duke and Dutchess, and attended by the great officers and ladies of the Court, the Knights being in the habits of their respective orders, walked in grand procession from the Old Palace in the Kremlin, to the Cathedral, where solemn Mass was performed by the Archbishop of Petersburg, and Te Deum sung, for the conclusion of the war: after which, the five first classes of the nobility had the honour of kissing her Majesty's hand. The keeper of the Privy-Purse, then read aloud a list of the gratifications and rewards which the Empress was pleased to bestow upon this occasion: Amongst the principal were the following:

To Marshal Romanzow, an estate of 5,000 peasants, 100,000 roubles in money, a service of plate—a hat with a wreath of laurel, enriched with precious stones, to the value of 30,000 roubles—a diamond star and shoulder knot—a marshal's staff, and a diploma, adding to his surname that of *Sadounaskoy*, which may be translated *The Ultra-Danubian*.

To Count Alexis Orlov, 60,000 roubles, and a sword enriched with diamonds of very considerable value,

value, and a diploma, granting to him, the surname of *Chefme*.

To General Potemkin, a diploma of Count of the Russian empire, and her Imperial Majesty's picture set with diamonds, to be worn by him.

To General Panin and Prince Dolgorouski, 60,000 roubles each, with a sword and a diamond star.

To Count Soltikow the second order of St. George.

To Count Ivan Czernichew, the order of St. Andrew.

Several ribbons of St. Alexander Newski, were conferred, and military promotions made.

Admiral Grieg was advanced to the rank of Vice-Admiral, and appointed Commandant of Cronstadt.

Next day the Great Duke bestowed eleven ribbons of the Order of St. Anne.

Large gold medals, struck upon this occasion, were

were likewise distributed to the Field-Marshal, Generals in Chief, and Foreign Ministers: and some of a smaller size to the rest of the nobility of the five first classes.

Her Imperial Majesty was likewise pleased to recall some noblemen from their banishment in Siberia, two of whom had resided there ever since the year 1746. She also made presents of some Sable skins to her Majesty here, said to be the grandest that were ever seen in England.

CHAP.

C H A P. VIII.

The Empress visits Admiral Greig's ship.—The Grand Duke pays a visit to the Court of Berlin, and demands the Princess of Wirtemburgh Stutgard in marriage.—Cordiality of the King of Prussia.—Ceremony of the marriage.—An Act of Confederation signed at a general Diet of the Polish nobility at Warsaw.

HER Imperial Majesty went about 11 o'clock in the morning, July 18, 1776, attended by many of the great Officers of State and household, in a magnificent barge from Oranienbaum to Admiral Greig's ship. Her Imperial Majesty was welcomed by cheers from each of the men of war as she passed them, the yards, &c. being manned at her approach. As soon as the Empress went on board the Admiral's ship, the Imperial standard was hoisted; upon which the whole fleet saluted by a general discharge of their cannon, as did likewise the fortifications of Cronstadt, which mount nine hundred guns. The Admiral's ship returned the salute of the fleet; which honour was acknowledged by each ship's firing half their number of guns. After the Empress had dined at a table of one hundred covers with the principal officers of
the

the marine and other departments, and many persons of the first distinction, a signal was made for the whole fleet to weigh anchor; and her Imperial Majesty, attended by the Prince and Count Alexis Orlov, Field-Marshal Gallitzin, and Count Bruce, the Adjutant on duty, rowed along the line of her fleet in her barge, being again saluted by a general discharge from the men of war and batteries; after which her Imperial Majesty went on board one of the yachts, sailed for a short time with the fleet, and returned between six and seven to Oranienbaum.

Admiral Greig was presented with the order of St. Alexander Newsky.

During an audience of leave which Prince Repnin, Ambassador extraordinary at the Porte from Russia, had (May 11) of the Grand Vizier, one of his officers, even in his presence, threw off his uniform and hat, and called for a turban, declaring he was a true and faithful Mahometan; but his Excellency having talked to him in the Russian language, and reclaimed him, the Grand Vizier caused him to be returned; which, however, was not the case with about 20 other Russians, who turned Mahometans.

In

In the year 1773, the Grand Duke, Paul Petrovitch, married a Princess of the House of Hesse Darmstadt, who on her baptism into the Greek church, took the name of Natalia Alexievna; in the following year she died in child-birth, and left no heir to inherit the empire. The great affair of the succession was a matter of too much importance, to be governed or limited by those forms which prevail in common cases of the same nature. The Grand Duke therefore paid a visit to the Court of Berlin, towards the close of the summer of 1776, in order to espouse the Princess of Wirtemberg. He made his public entry, accompanied by Prince Henry of Russia, in the following order: First, appeared twenty-four postillions sounding their horns, commanded by six Secretaries of the post, all in uniform; after these came the company of butchers; then that of the archers; after them a considerable body of merchants distinguished by the beauty of their uniform: after these companies came three superb state coaches, in which were the Lieutenant-General Lentutus de Buddenbrock, Count Werthern, Minister of State, the Major-Generals Sobeck and Prittwitz, with some other gentlemen; a detachment of life-guards, followed by a running footman, immediately preceded one of the King's coaches with eight horses, in which were the Grand Duke of Russia, and Prince Henry
of

of Prussia. This was one of the most superb carriages ever seen, and was followed by three others, in which were the General Field-Marshal Romanzow Sadiomiskow, General Count Soltikow, and the Chamberlain and Gentlemen of his Imperial Highness. The procession was closed by one hundred men of infantry, being the guard of honour. All the magistracy of the city received the Princes under a triumphal arch, where upwards of seventy young maidens, dressed like nymphs and shepherdesses, presented the Grand Duke with verses, and a garland of flowers. The cannon fired, and the trumpets and other music sounded from the beginning till the King embraced the Grand Duke in his apartments. The Grand Duke at the King's approach, said,

“ Permit me, O mighty Monarch, to signify my reasons for having travelled from the extremities of the north to these happy dominions : it is to assure you, myself, of the everlasting tie of friendship and alliance, which henceforth shall reign between Russia and Prussia—to meet Russia's future Empress, who will be dearer to myself and the whole nation, for my having received her from your hands ; and lastly and chiefly, to view with my own eyes Europe's greatest hero, the admiration

ration of the age, and the astonishment of posterity."

Here he was interrupted by the King, who replied—

" Instead of which you behold, O Prince, a hoary-headed Valetudinarian, who could never have wished for a superior happiness, than that of welcoming within these walls the hopeful head of a mighty empire, and the only son of my best friend, Catherine the Great." Turning to General Romanzow, he added; " Welcome, conqueror of the Ottomans, I find a great likeness between you and my General Winterfeldt."

" Sire, replied the General, I am ambitious to resemble, even awkwardly, a General who distinguished himself so much in your Majesty's service."

The King made answer,

" You have far more reason to be proud of your own glorious deeds, which will hand down to the latest posterity, your immortal fame."

Prince Henry of Prussia in the name of the Empress of Russia, made the demand of the Princess

of Wirtemberg Stutgard, in marriage for the Grand Duke, and the ceremony of the contract took place the same day.

On the 3d of August, his Imperial Highness took leave of the Royal Family, and the King made him the following magnificent presents: a desert service, and a coffee-service, with ten vases of china of the manufacture of Berlin; a ring with his Majesty's portrait, covered with a diamond, valued at 30,000 crowns; a set of Prussian horses, and four pieces of rich tapestry.

After this there was an extraordinary Court, at which were present all the Foreign Ministers, and every person of distinction. The whole august company supped with the Queen in great magnificence, and the next day dined with her Majesty.

The Princess of Wirtemburgh Stutgard, soon appeared at the Court of Peterburgh, and finished, on Wednesday, September 25, her Confession of Faith, according to the rites of the Greek church. The ceremony was performed with all possible grandeur. To complete the Confession, all the Members of the Synod assembled at ten o'clock in the morning, in the Winter Palace, with the nobility

bility of the Court, the Foreign Ambassadors, and the persons of the four first classes; at the same time the clergy assembled in the church, and the rest of the audience in the chambers de Parade. A short time after, the Empress, accompanied by the Grand Duke and Princess, preceded by the whole court, and followed by all the Lords and Ladies of the first rank, men at the Grand Chapel, where her Majesty, with the Duke and Princess, were met and received by the Members of the Synod, cloathed in their ceremonial habits. The Princess received confirmation there from the hands of the Prelate Gabriel, Archbishop of Nowgorod and Petersburg, who gave her the name of Maria Fedorowna. Her god-mother was the young Lady Margaret Alexandrowna, of Duraw, Treasurer to the Convent of the daughters of the nobility of this chapel.

The Princess was immediately complimented by the Clergy, and afterwards by the Empress, and the Grand Duke. The liturgy began next, which was read by the Prelate Platoc, Archbishop of Moscow and Kaluga, assisted by the whole body of the Clergy present. At finishing the liturgy, the Empress arose, and conducted the Princess to the altar for the adoration of the images; after which she received the communion, and divine service was finished with a sermon by Archbishop Blaton,

suitable to the occasion. The Clergy had afterwards the honour to compliment the Empress and Grand Duke, and kiss their hands. This august assembly returned afterwards in the same order to the palace, where the Empress received, in her apartments, compliments of congratulation from the Foreign Ministers, who also had the honour to kiss hands.

The following day was celebrated, with equal pomp, the espousal of the Grand Duke, Paul Petrowitz, with the Princess Maria Fedorowna. At ten o'clock the Members of the Synod, the High Clergy, the Lords and Ladies of the Court, with other persons of distinction, with the Foreign Ministers, met in the Winter Palace. The Prelate Innocent, and the Archbishop of Plesga and Riga, officiated in their pontificals in the Grand Chapel of the Court, where the Empress, accompanied by the Grand Duke and Princess Maria Fedorowna, preceded by the marshals with their staves, and followed by all the Lords and Ladies, met about eleven o'clock. The Empress carried on her head the small Crown, and was habited in her Imperial Robes. The train of her mantle was supported by five Gentlemen of the Chamber, and two others supported the mantle of the Princess.

Having

Having arrived at the entry of the chapel, they were received by the body of the Clergy, cloathed in their ceremonials. The Empress conducted the Grand Duke and Princess under a superb canopy, decorated for that purpose in the middle of the church. Afterwards, the Archbishop of Nowgorod and Peterburgh came forwards, and began the nuptial ceremony, according to the rites of the Greek Church, and as soon as it was finished, it was proclaimed by a discharge of 51 cannon from the ramparts. Te Deum was then sung, and ended with a discharge of 31 pieces of artillery.

The Empress, the Grand Duke and Princess, afterwards Duchess of Russia, returned in the same manner to the Imperial Palace, where this august Sovereign, having been first disrobed, received in her apartment the compliments of congratulation from the Foreign Ministers, who had the honour to kiss her hand. The Empress Queen dined upon a throne with the Grand Duke and Princess. In the same chamber were 160 covers upon different tables, for the High Clergy, the General Officers, and the persons of the four first classes. The Grand Officers of the Crown fulfilled their functions near the Imperial table, and the health of the Empress and Princess were drank with a discharge of cannon,

and flourish of trumpets and timbrels. During the repast, there was a grand Italian concert, vocal and instrumental. In the evening the Court was splendid and brilliant, and balls afterwards in the galleries, at which the Empress, Grand Duke, and Princess attended. During the time of going and returning from chapel the bells were rung, and at night the town was magnificently illuminated, as was also the castle.

The day of marriage being fixed for the 7th, at ten in the morning, the four first classes of the nobility, and the Foreign Ministers, assembled at the palace, on a signal of five guns being fired from the fortrefs; and soon after eleven the Empress, with the Great Duke and Duchefs, proceeded to the chapel, where the marriage-ceremony was performed by her Imperial Majesty's Confessor. Prince Orlow held the Crown over the head of the Great Duke, and Monf. Betskoy over the head of the Great Duchefs. After the ceremony a sermon was preached by Platoc, Archbishop of Moscow. On account of the length and fatigue of the preceding ceremony, the Empress did not receive the compliments of congratulation of the nobility and Foreign Ministers, as had been intended. Her Imperial Majesty afterwards dined in public upon the throne, with the Great Duke and Duchefs. Tables

bles were spread in the same saloon for the four first classes of the nobility. In the evening there was a ball at Court; and the festivities of the day were concluded by very magnificent illuminations.

Next morning the nobility and Foreign Ministers had the honour of complimenting their Imperial Highnesses in their apartments; and in the evening there was a ball at Court, and supper for the first four Classes and the Foreign Ministers.

The Grand Duchess was brought to bed, Dec. 12, 1777, of the Grand Duke Alexander Pavlovitch; April 27, 1779, of Constantine Pavlovitch; July 27, 1783, of the Grand Duchess Alexandra Pavlovna; Dec. 13, 1786, of Helena Pavlovna; Feb. 4, 1786, of Maria Pavlovna; May 10, 1788, of Catherine Pavlovna; Jan. 7, 1795, of Anna Pavlovna; and July 2, 1796, of Nicolai Pavlovitch. Her Imperial Majesty was generally the Sponsor. After the ceremony of baptism, the Foreign Ministers and Nobility were invited to a table of about 200 covers, and several promotions in the civil and military departments made on this occasion.

At a general Diet of the Polish nobility, held at Warsaw, (August 21,) the Members were obliged to sign the following Act of Confederation, which the Poles think if strictly adhered to, would certainly be a blessing to their ruined country.

1. To preserve the Roman Church as predominant.

2. For the person of the King and the dignity of his throne.

3. For the laws and liberties of both nations (Poland and Lithuania) which are guarantees to each other by many convention compacts.

4. To erect a free and independent Republican Government, which has a power of legislation at its Diets, and a power to enforce its acts between one Diet and another.

5. To fulfil and observe all the treaties hitherto concluded with foreign powers.

6. To introduce an harmony between the different Courts of Judicature throughout the whole kingdom, and to preserve a due subordination among them.

7. To

7. To take such measures as would lessen the taxes and imposts, and to abolish, or at least to confine all unnecessary and extravagant expences.

8. That justice and right be administered to each individual subject, against the violations of the feudal bonds.

9. And that every Member of this Diet be zealous to adopt such measures, as would establish the public tranquillity, and tend to the happiness of the kingdom in general, and every subject in particular.

C H A P. IX.

Catherine begins to divide the Empire into Vice-Royalties.—Remarks.—A new Treaty signed at Constantinople—also, a Treaty of Peace between the Belligerent Powers.—A dreadful Fire—Prince Gallitzin's Memorial, and the Empress's Declaration relating to the Safety of Navigation, &c.—Answers thereto.—Explanation demanded by the Court of Sweden.—Answer from the Court of Russia.

HER Imperial Majesty now intended to divide the empire into Vice royalties, and in January, 1779, she made a beginning with the Vice-royalty of Orlof. Many circumstances attending the late war and peace between Russia and the Porte, could not fail to sow the seeds of future discontent, ill-will, jealousy, and litigation between the parties. Extraordinary success and triumph, on the one side, with an equal degree of loss and disgrace on the other, were little calculated to promote any intercourse of friendship or cordiality of sentiment among men; nor could a recollection of the hard necessity under which a peace was subscribed, serve at all to render palatable, the bitterness

ness of its conditions. On the other hand, the victors considered the vanquished, as owing them too much. They thought themselves enabled to claim those advantages which they omitted to secure in the moment of their fortunes, and which they looked upon as rights existing, though neglected, being such, as at that time could not be refused, if demanded.

Nothing less than the most unjust necessity could have induced the Porte to admit Russia to the navigation of the Black Sea. With wonderful spirit and industry, the Russians had very speedily advanced large capitals, and opened a considerable commerce on that sea. As commercial avidity was still encreasing, so new, and perhaps unreasonable claims, were as frequently started on the one side, as an indisposition to comply with the fair and literal terms of the treaty, was prevalent on the other. This, together with the acknowledging the independence of the Crimea, was chief ground for murmur with the Turks. Russia, by a judicious, but unsparing distribution of presents amongst the Tartars, and by artfully fomenting some divisions, which had originated within themselves, with respect to the succession, had been able to defeat and depose the reigning Khan, and place a creature of her own, although a Prince of the royal blood, in possession

possession of the nominal sovereignty : thus Crimea, with Little Tartary, and the Budziac, were become scarce any thing less than provinces to Russia, and the government was in effect, more dependent upon Russia, than it had even formerly been upon the Porte.

These circumstances, which certainly militated with the spirit of the late treaty, gave great umbrage to the Porte, and afforded a tolerable ground of controversy, with respect to any slackness, or non-compliance on her side, in fulfilling its conditions. They also afforded cause of the most serious concern and alarm, for that peninsula, surrounded as it is by the Black Sea, and the Palees Moeotus, and commanding the communication between both, afforded such a claim of right to Russia, with such an interest in, and such a strength upon those seas, that nothing afterwards was capable of opposing.

The disputes relative to the Greek nominal Princes, but in effect governors, of Moldavia and Walachia, though not of a nature so alarming as the foregoing, yet were founded on claims, and on an interference, which tended ultimately to the same point: to the depreciation of the Ottoman power and governments, the narrowing of its European dominion, and the finally throwing every thing on
that

that side of the Danube, into the hands of Russia. The attachment which the Greek Christians, who inhabited these provinces, had shewn to Russia in the late war, had, with other motives, induced her to obtain very considerable concessions in their favour at the conclusion of the peace. The effect of the partial advantages granted to these two provinces, was soon apparent, by the emigration of Christian inhabitants from those on the other side of the Danube, which it naturally occasioned; who, as well as the natives, looked up to another power, than that to which they avowed allegiance, for favour and protection. In order to secure their independence on the Porte, Russia made a demand, that those Princes should not be deposed or punished on any pretence whatever.

Constantinople, to crown her calamity, had been considerably depopulated by a plague, and owing to the ill success of her war with Russia, distant provinces were still torn by faction and dissention. Russia, conscious of the advantages acquired by the late treaty, was far from desirous of further hostilities. It was, at first, a matter of no small astonishment that Great-Britain, which had been so long and closely united in the strictest bands of friendship and apparent political communion of views and interests with Russia, and which had gone some extraordinary

extraordinary lengths in the war in her favour, did not undertake the friendly office of mediator : a strong jealousy had subsisted for some time between France and Russia, and their political interests and regards so much clashed with respect to the war, that it was in a good measure the apprehension of England which prevented the house of Bourbon from taking a decided part against the latter, upon her sending a fleet to the Mediterranean : for some time at least France seemed to attain the ascendant at St. Petersburg.

On the 21st of March a new treaty was signed at Constantinople between Russia and the Porte. Concessions were made on both sides and matters of claim, interference and litigation, amicably adjusted. Some concessions were made by the Porte with respect to commerce, and some new regulations made in favour of its Christian subjects. On the other hand, Russia relaxed in some matters with respect to the Crimea, and the provinces of Moldavia and Walachia, and obtained satisfaction in others. The new Khan of the Tartars was acknowledged by the Porte, and the apparent independency of the Crimea, confirmed on both sides. The Empress of Russia had an opportunity of displaying her usual magnificence by the splendid presents which she made to the French and Turkish Ministers

Ministers, as well as to M. de Stachief, her own resident at Constantinople, who received the invaluable, but in other countries, unheard-of gift, of a *thousand peasants*; a kind of gift, which included also, the land they cultivated and inhabited. This Convention afforded considerable satisfaction to both parties.

A treaty of peace between the belligerent powers in Germany and France was signed (May 13), under the mediation of her Imperial Majesty—in the following month, she established an hospital at Moscow for invalid officers, and gave orders the month after, to General Baues, to cause a canal to be cut, in order to supply Moscow with wholesome water. Towards the latter end of this year (Dec. 3), the Vice-royalty of Veroneth was instituted, and Count Romantz of Zadunaïski opened the Vice-royalty of Kursk with great solemnity and magnificence, Dec. 27.

In 1780, about 8 o'clock in the evening, Aug. 26, a dreadful fire broke out at the hemp magazine, in Petersburg, and continued to rage three days; it communicated to a magazine, surrounded with water, which contained great part of a crop of tobacco that grew in the Ukraine—the damage was reckoned at two millions of roubles. The unhappy sufferers

py sufferers experienced much of the Empress's benevolence.

The safety of navigation and commerce of the neutral powers, now engaged her Majesty, and the following memorial was presented to their High Mightinesses by Prince Gallitzin, the Russian Minister, on the part of the Empress, his sovereign:—

“ High and Mighty Lords :

“ The underwritten Envoy Extraordinary from
 “ the Empress of all the Russias, has the honour to
 “ communicate to you, a copy of the Declaration
 “ which the Empress, his Sovereign, has made to
 “ the belligerent powers. Your High Mightinesses
 “ may look upon this communication as a particular
 “ mark of the attention of the Empress for the
 “ Republic, which is equally interested in the reasons
 “ which occasioned the Declaration. He has
 “ further orders to declare to your High Mightinesses,
 “ in the name of her Imperial Majesty,
 “ that how desirous soever she may be on the one
 “ hand, to maintain the strictest neutrality during
 “ the present war, yet her Majesty is as determined
 “ to take the utmost efficacious means to support
 “ the honour of the Russian flag, the security of
 “ the trade, and the navigation of her subjects, and
 “ not suffer either to be hurt by any of the belligerent
 “ gerent

" gerent powers : that, in order to prevent, on
 " this occasion, any misunderstanding, or false in-
 " terpretation, she thought it necessary to specify in
 " the Declaration, the limits of a free-trade, and
 " what is called Contraband. That if the defini-
 " tion of the former is founded upon the clearest
 " notions of natural right, the latter is literally
 " taken from the treaty of commerce between Rus-
 " sia and Great Britain, by which her Imperial
 " Majesty means incontestably to prove her good
 " faith and impartiality towards each party : that
 " she consequently apprehends, that the other trad-
 " ing powers will immediately come into her way
 " of thinking, relative to the neutrality.

" From these considerations, her Imperial Ma-
 " jesty has ordered the underwritten, to invite your
 " High Mightinesses to make a common cause with
 " her, as such an union may serve to protect the
 " trade and navigation, and at the same time ob-
 " serve, a strict neutrality, and to communicate to
 " your High Mightinesses, the regulation she has
 " in consequence taken.

" The same invitation has been made to the
 " Courts of Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Lisbon,
 " in order, that by the united endeavours of all,
 " the neutral maritime powers, a natural system,
 " founded

“ founded on justice, might be established, and le-
“ galised in favour of the trade of neutral nations,
“ which by its real advantages, might serve for a
“ rule for future ages.

“ The underwritten does not doubt, but your
“ High Mightinesses will, without delay, take the
“ invitation of her Imperial Majesty into consider-
“ ation, and concur in immediately making a De-
“ claration to the belligerent powers, founded on
“ the same principles as that of the Empress, ex-
“ plaining, at the same time, the nature of a free
“ and contraband trade, conformable to the respec-
“ tive treaties with the other nations.

“ For the rest, the underwritten has the honour
“ to assure your High Mightinesses, that if, to ef-
“ tablish such a glorious and advantageous system
“ upon the most solid basis, they wished to open a
“ negociation with the above-mentioned neutral
“ powers on this subject, the Empress, his Sove-
“ reign, is ready to join you.

“ Your Mightinesses will easily see, the necessity
“ of accelerating your resolutions, upon objects of
“ such importance and advantage, for humanity in
“ general.

“ general. The underwritten begs of you, to give
“ him a speedy answer.

DEMEHI PRINCE GALLITZIN.”

Hague, April 3, 1780.

Declaration from the Empress of Russia, to the
COURTS of LONDON, VERSAILLES, and
MADRID.

“ The Empress of all the Russias has so fully
“ manifested her sentiments of equity and modera-
“ tion, and has given such evident proofs, during
“ the course of the war, that she supported against
“ the Ottoman Porte, of the regard she has for the
“ rights of neutrality, and the liberty of universal
“ commerce, as all Europe can witness. This con-
“ duct, as well as the principles of impartiality, that
“ she has displayed during the present war, justly
“ inspires her with the fullest confidence, that her
“ subjects would peaceably enjoy the fruits of their
“ industry, and the advantages belonging to a neu-
“ tral nation. Experience has, nevertheless, proved
“ the contrary. Neither the above-mentioned confi-
“ derations, nor the regard to the rights of nations,
“ have prevented the subjects of her Imperial Ma-
“ jesty from being often molested in their naviga-
“ tion, and stopped in their operations, by those of
“ the belligerent powers.

“ These

“ These hindrances to the liberty of trade in ge-
 “ neral, and to that of Russia in particular, are of
 “ a nature to excite the attention of all neutral na-
 “ tions. The Empress finds herself obliged, there-
 “ fore, to free it by all the means compatible with
 “ her dignity, and the well being of her subjects:
 “ but, before she puts this into execution, and with
 “ a sincere intention to prevent any future infringe-
 “ ments, she thought it but just to publish to all
 “ Europe, the principles she means to follow,
 “ which are the properest to prevent any misunder-
 “ standing, or any occurrences that may occasion it.
 “ Her Imperial Majesty does it with the more con-
 “ fidence, as she finds these principles coincident
 “ with the primitive right of nations, which every
 “ people may reclaim, and which the belligerent
 “ powers cannot invalidate, without violating the
 “ laws of neutrality, and without disavowing the
 “ maxims they have adopted in the different treaties
 “ and public engagements.

“ They are reduced to the following points:—

“ First, That all neutral ships may freely navi-
 “ gate from port to port, and on the coasts of na-
 “ tions at war.

“ Secondly, That the effects belonging to the
 “ subjects

“ subjects of the said warring powers, shall be free
 “ in all neutral vessels, except contraband mer-
 “ chandise.

“ Thirdly, That the Empress, as to the specifi-
 “ cation of the above-mentioned merchandise, holds
 “ to what is mentioned in the 10th and 11th articles
 “ of her Treaty of Commerce with Great Britain,
 “ extending her obligation to all the powers at
 “ war.

“ Fourthly, That to determine what is meant
 “ by a blocked-up port, this is only to be under-
 “ stood of one which is so well kept in by the ships
 “ of the power that attacks it, and which keep their
 “ places, that it is dangerous to enter into it.

“ Fifthly, That these principles serve as a rule
 “ for proceedings and judgements upon the legality
 “ of prizes—her Imperial Majesty in making these
 “ points public, does not hesitate to declare, that
 “ to maintain them, and to protect the honour of
 “ her flag, the security of the trade, and navi-
 “ gation of her subjects, she has prepared the
 “ greatest part of her maritime forces. This mea-
 “ sure will not, however, influence the strict neu-
 “ trality she does observe, and will observe, so
 “ long as she is not provoked and forced to break
 “ the

“ the bounds of moderation and perfect impartiality. It will be only in this extremity, that her
 “ fleet have orders to go wherever honour, interest, and need may require. 4

“ In giving this solemn assurance with the usual
 “ openness of her character, the Empress cannot do
 “ other than promise herself, that the belligerent
 “ powers, convinced of the sentiments of justice and
 “ equity, which animate her, will contribute towards
 “ the accomplishment of these salutary purposes,
 “ which manifestly tend to the good of all nations,
 “ and to the advantage even of those at war. In
 “ consequence of which, her Imperial Majesty will
 “ furnish her commanding officers with instructions,
 “ conformable to the above-mentioned principles,
 “ founded upon the primitive laws of the people, and
 “ so often adopted in their conventions.”

The answer from the Court of Great Britain, (sent to the British Envoy at Petersburg, April 23, 1780) to the above Declaration of the Empress of Russia, having first commented on the then unprovoked aggression of France and Spain, assures the Empress, that “ Strongly attached to her
 “ Majesty of all the Russias, by the ties of reciprocal friendship and common interest, the King from
 “ the commencement of those troubles, gave the most
 “ precise

“ precise orders respecting the flag of her Imperial
“ Majesty, and the commerce of her subjects, agree-
“ able to the laws of nations, and the tenour of the
“ engagements, stipulated by his Treaty of Com-
“ merce with her, and to which he shall adhere with
“ the most scrupulous exactness.”

The answer from the King of France, (dated April 25, 1780) likewise coincided with the Empress's wishes—Also, that from the King of Spain,
“ Till his Majesty finds what part the English navy
“ takes, and whether they will, together with their
“ privateers, keep within proper bounds.”

The Court of Sweden demanded in the following manner, an explanation relative to the proposal which the Court of Russia made for the reciprocal protection and navigation of their subjects .

“ 1. How, and in what manner a reciprocal protection and mutual assistance shall be given ?

“ 2. Whether each particular power shall be obliged to protect the general commerce of the whole, or if in the mean time it may employ a part of its armament in the protection of its own particular commerce ?

“ 3. If

“ 3. If several of these combined squadrons should meet, or, for example, one, or more of their vessels, what shall be the rule of their conduct towards each other, and how far shall the neutral protection extend ?

“ 4. It seems essential to agree upon the manner in which representations shall be made to the powers at war ; if, notwithstanding our measures, their ships of war, or armed vessels, should continue to interrupt our commerce in any manner, must these remonstrances be made in the general name of the united powers, or shall each particular power plead its own cause only ?

“ 5. Lastly, it appears essentially necessary to provide against this possible event, where one of the united powers, seeing itself driven to extremities against any of the powers actually at war, should claim the assistance of the allies in this convention, to do her justice ; in what manner can this be best concerted ? A circumstance which equally requires a stipulation, that the reprisals in that case shall not be at the will of such party injured, but that the common voice shall decide : otherwise, an individual power might, at its pleasure, draw the rest against their inclinations and interests, into disagreeable extremities, or break the whole league, and reduce

duce matters into their original state, which would render the whole fruitless and of no effect."

The Court of Russia returned the following answer :—

1. As to the manner in which protection and mutual assistance shall be granted, it must be settled by a formal convention, to which all the neutral powers will be invited, the principal end of which is, to insure a free navigation to the merchant ships of all nations. Whenever such vessel shall have proved from its papers, that it carries no contraband goods, the protection of a squadron or vessels of war shall be granted her, under whose care she shall put herself, and which shall prevent her from being interrupted. From hence it follows :—

" 2. That each power must concur in the general security of commerce. In the mean time, the better to accomplish this object, it will be necessary to settle, by means of a separate article, the places and distances which may be judged proper for the station of each power. From that method will arise this advantage, that all the squadrons of the allies, will form a kind of chain, and be able to assist each other ; the particular arrangements to be confined only to the knowledge of the allies, though the con-

K

vention

vention in all other points, will be communicated to the powers of war, accompanied with all the protestations of a strict neutrality.

“ 3. It is undoubtedly the principle of a perfect equality, which must regulate this point. We shall follow the common mode with regard to safety. In case the squadrons should meet and engage, the commanders will conform to the usages of the sea service, because, as it is observed above, the reciprocal protection, under these conditions, should be unlimited.

“ 4. It seems expedient, that the representations mentioned in this article, be made by the party aggrieved; and that the Ministers of the other confederate powers, support those remonstrances in the most forcible and efficacious manner.

“ 5. We feel all the importance of this consideration; and to render it clear, it is necessary to distinguish the case.

“ If any one of the allied powers should suffer itself to be drawn in by motives contrary to the established principles of a neutrality and perfect impartiality, should injure its laws, or extend their bounds, it cannot certainly be expected, that the
others

others, should espouse the quarrel : on the contrary, such a conduct would be deemed an abandoning the ties which unite them. But if the insult offered to one of the allies should be hostile to the principles adopted and announced in the face of all Europe, or should be marked with the character of hatred and animosity, inspired by resentment, these common measures of the Confederacy, which have no other tendency than to make, in a precise and irrevocable manner, laws for the liberty of commerce, and the rights of every neutral nation, then it shall be held indispensable for the united powers to make a common cause of it, (at sea only) without its being a ground work for other operations, as these connections are purely maritime, having no other object, than naval commerce and navigation.

“ From all that is said above, it evidently results, that the common will of all, founded upon the principles admitted and adopted, by the contracting parties, must alone decide, and that it will always be the fixed basis of the conduct and operations of this union. Finally, we shall observe, that these Conventions, suppose no other naval armament than what shall be conformable to circumstances, according as those shall render them necessary, or as may be agreed. It is probable, that this

agreement, once ratified and established, will be of the greatest consequence ; and that the belligerent powers will find in it, sufficient motives to persuade them to respect the neutral flag, and prevent their provoking the resentment of a respectable communion, founded under the auspices of the most evident justice, and the sole idea of which is received with the universal applause of all impartial Europe."

The maritime treaty, founded on the above Memorial and Declaration, was signed at Copenhagen, by the King of Denmark's Plenipotentiaries, July 19, 1780, and acceded to, and signed by the Plenipotentiaries of the Court of Sweden, at Petersburgh, July 21, and by the States-General accepted, November 20, and signed at Petersburgh, January 5, 1781, with the addition of the following article :—

" If the respective squadrons, or ships of war should meet or unite, to act in conjunction, the command in chief will be regulated according to what is commonly practised between the crowned heads and the Republic."

C H A P. X.

Interview between the Empress and Emperor of Germany—Her Mediation between England and Holland—Letter to the Pope—Another—Manifesto on taking Possession of the Crimea, &c.—Empress's Letter to his Prussian Majesty.—Dutch Answers.—Treaty of Peace between the Empress and Grand Signior.—Various Anecdotes.—Manifesto, giving full Liberty to Foreigners.—Settlers invited to Russia.—Presents to and from the Court of Vienna.—Survey of the eastern Parts of Russia ordered to be made.—Sundry Observations.

AN interview took place in 1780, between the Emperor of Germany and the Empress of Russia. The latter having accompanied the Great Duke and the Duchess of Russia, on their way to make the tour of Europe, proceeded, according to the concerted appointment, to Mohilow, in Poland, where the meeting of these great Potentates took place in June. Form, etequette, or ceremonial, were no parts of, nor no interruption to, the satisfaction which the illustrious personages received in each others conversation and acquaintance. After

some stay at Mohilow, the Emperor accompanied the Czarina, on her return to Peterburgh, where he continued for some time, and where he was received with all the magnificence peculiar to that Court, and so different from the plainness and simplicity of his own habits, manners, and mode of living. His private life, however, was spent as usual. The return of the Emperor from Peterburgh was soon succeeded by a visit which the Prince Royal of Prussia paid to that capital.

In 1781, her Imperial Majesty became a mediatrix between England and Holland. His Excellency Prince Gallitzin, Envoy Extraordinary from Russia, held a conference with the President of the States General, and presented the following memorial from the Empress of Russia :—

“ High and Mighty Lords :

“ No sooner had her Imperial Majesty been informed of the British Ambassador’s sudden departure from the Hague, than, without waiting for any farther explanation, guided only by the friendship and good will she bears to the two contending powers, and awakened by the alarming tendency of a measure so detrimental to their mutual welfare and tranquility, she directed her Minister in London, to make the most earnest
“ repre-

“ representations to that Court, to prevent, if pos-
 “ sible, the matter being carried to any extremity,
 “ and to recommend the most conciliating mea-
 “ sures : offering, at the same time, to promote
 “ them, as far as was in her power. Although her
 “ Majesty has not yet heard of any answer from the
 “ said Court, she has some reason to think, that the
 “ overtures made by her have been favourably re-
 “ ceived. In consequence whereof, her Imperial
 “ Majesty does not hesitate to give a fresh proof of
 “ her good intentions for bringing about a reconci-
 “ liation between the two powers, whom she equally
 “ supports, and who have lived so long in that na-
 “ tural and perfect harmony, which best suits their
 “ respective interests, by offering them, in form,
 “ her services and mediation, for the purpose of
 “ putting an end to that discord and war, which has
 “ lately broke out between them.

“ While Monsieur de Simolin her Imperial Ma-
 “ jesty’s Minister at the court of London, is
 “ fulfilling her commands on this head, the under-
 “ written has the honor to acquit himself of the
 “ same task here with their High Mightinesses, and
 “ to assure them of the zeal and readiness he wishes
 “ to have an opportunity to display, in forwarding
 “ the desirable worth of restoring the said states to
 “ their wonted peace and tranquility. That dis-

“ interestedness, impartiality, and benevolence,
 “ which have hitherto stamped every action of
 “ her Imperial Majesty, are equally conspicuous
 “ in the present instance.

“ The wisdom and prudence of your High
 “ Mightinesses will easily distinguish these sacred
 “ characteristics, and dictate the answer which the
 “ underwritten shall transmit to her Imperial Ma-
 “ jesty, as a proof of his having executed her
 “ commands.

“ LE PRINCE DE GALLITZIN.”

Hague, March 1, 1781.

On the 7th of March, their Noble and Great
 Mightinesses, the States of Holland and West
 Friesland, having examined the above memorial,
 accepted of the mediation offered by the Empress
 of Russia.

England seemed highly sensible of her Majesty's
 good intentions, and at this time resented a libel
 which was published against the Russian Ambassador
 in the London Courant, Noon Gazette, Morning
 Herald, Gazetteer, Whitehall Evening Post, and
 Middlesex Journal. The affidavits of the diffe-
 rent Courts being heard, the Court was pleased to
 order, that the original publisher of the paragraph
 in

in question (London Courant) should be fined 100l. imprisoned for a year, and then stand in the pillory for one hour; the Noon Gazette printer 100l. and a year's imprisonment, and for having published the next day another paragraph in justification of what he had done, was ordered an additional six months imprisonment, and to stand on the pillory. The Morning Herald printer was fined 100l. and a year's imprisonment, the Gazetteer's (being a female) 50l. and six months imprisonment; the publisher of the Whitehall Evening Post 100l. and a year's imprisonment; and the printer of the Middlesex Journal the same.

In January 1782, a Roman Catholic Archbishopric was erected in the city of Mohilef, with authority over all the catholic churches and convents in the Russian empire. The order of Wolodimur was also founded this year, and a commercial treaty with Portugal concluded. The equestrian statue of Peter the Great (which we have already noticed) was likewise finished this year, and being uncovered to the public in presence of her Imperial Majesty, a proclamation, containing pardons for several criminals, &c. was published on the occasion.

Nov. 20, the Grand Duke and Duchess, who under the titles of Count and Countess of North,

had travelled through Germany, Italy, France, Holland, the Netherlands, &c. returned to Peterburgh, after the absence of a year and two months.

March 4, 1783, his Holiness at Rome, granted a public audience to Mr. Benislawski, Minister from the Imperial Court of Russia, when his Excellency delivered his credentials. The Ambassadors of the House of Bourbon seemed to be very attentive to every transaction between the above ex-jesuit and his Holiness, as they spared no pains to enquire into the nature of the negotiation. The Empress wrote in her own hand to the Pope, a letter, of which the following is an extract :

“ I know that your Holiness is greatly embarrassed, but such fears ill suit your character. Your dignity is not arbitrary, and cannot combine with politics, when the latter may turn out to the disadvantage of religion. My motives for granting protection to the Jesuits are founded on reason and justice ; as also on the prospect of their being useful to my empire. That body of innocent men will live within my dominions, and they are, of all Catholic bodies, the best calculated to civilize my subjects, and inspire them with sentiments of humanity,

manity, and the true principles of the Christian religion.

“ I am resolved to support them against every power whatever; and in this I only fulfil my duty, as I am their Sovereign, and look upon them as faithful subjects, equally innocent and useful. My wish is, that four of them be empowered to give the holy confirmation at Moscow and Petersburgh, the more so, as the two Roman churches in those cities are committed to their care. Who knows but Divine Providence will make those religious men instrumental to the long wished for union of the Greek and Roman church? Let your Holiness banish all fears, as I shall maintain to the full extent of my power, those rights which you have received from Jesus Christ.”

On the arrival of a Jesuit at Rome, who was appointed by the Empress to negotiate with the Pope concerning the re-establishment of the Society in her Imperial Majesty's dominions, his Holiness rather embarrassed what answer to give, consulted with the other Potentates, exposing the danger there would be for him to refuse complying with the desires of that powerful Sovereign. The different courts to whom his Holiness applied, were unanimous in advising their Sovereign to accede to the

demands of the Empress; in consequence of which, the Pope issued out a brief, approving of the Jesuitical institution within the Imperial dominions.

The following is the letter from the Empress of Russia, which induced the Pope, to grant his brief for the re-establishment of the Jesuits in Russia. The letter was directed to the Russian Ambassador, at Warsaw :

“ As I have not yet received any answer from the Pope to my letter to him in favour of Mons. Siencerwitz, Archbishop of the Roman Church of Mehiloff, and concerning the consecration of his coadjutor Mons. de Benislawski; I command you very expressly to signify to the Nuncio from Rome at the Court of Warsaw, how important it is for his Sovereign to satisfy me on the above points, without loss of time; signifying, that in case I should fail in an application which concerns his church alone, I must be wanting in what I owe to myself and dignity, were I to put up patiently with such a mark of disrespect; so that any farther delay would compel me to withdraw from the Roman religion, that protection which I have hitherto granted it, in my Empire. I have not only included the above mode of worship in the universal toleration allowed to all other sects, but I have highly distinguished it, and per-

permitted the head of that religion to enjoy all the authority he could reasonably expect, over those of his persuasion. But if I meet with no other return from him than so shocking a conduct towards me, I shall be obliged to make him sensible that he owes all this influence to my moderation only, and that without him I have sufficient means to effect my purpose ; as it is incontrovertible that all manner of discipline, civil or ecclesiastical, must, for the preservation of good order, depend upon the ruling powers. Moreover, you shall acquaint the Nuncio, that previous to my taking any disagreeable step against his master, I once more entreat the Pope to answer me, without delay, no-ways doubting but his acknowledged wisdom and prudence will induce him to do it in a satisfactory manner, and conformable to that humanity, which becomes his dignity. Do not hide from him, that all the Roman Catholics settled in my dominions of White Russia, having turned from our orthodox faith on account only of the persecutions carried on against them, on their ancestors in Poland, and ready, on the first signal, to re-embrace our mode of worship ; to which they are attached in their hearts, as its tenets are far more humane, and never clashed with the welfare and good order of society. In fine, give the Nuncio to understand, that I will brook neither representations nor delays ; and that it behoves him to
make

make the Pope sensible of his true interest. On my part, that he may not be doubtful about the matter, I have given directions to Prince Gallitzin, to represent it in the same light to the Nuncio at Vienna, as you are hereby commanded to do to that of Warsaw."

(Signed) CATHERINE.

The measures adopted by the Empress of Russia, for making her dominions the asylum for the Jesuits, was a stroke of policy perfectly congenial with her enterprising spirit. One great object of the Empress was the cultivation of the Arts, for which purpose no persons were better qualified than the brotherhood in question, who had eminently signalized themselves in all quarters of the globe, by their extensive learning, universal knowledge, and acute penetration.

This year the Empress completed the institution of the Viceroy allies of the empire, and concluded a treaty of commerce with the Ottoman Porte, also with Heraclius II. Czar of Kertalinia and Kachetti, by which he submitted himself and successors, with his territories, &c. to the sceptre of her Majesty.

Having

Having taken possession of the Crimea, the Cuban, and the island of Taman, the Empress published a manifesto, whereby these countries were declared to be annexed to her Imperial Majesty's dominion, of which the following is a translation :

“ We, Catherine the Second, by the Grace of God, Empress and Sole Monarch of all the Russias, &c. &c. &c.

“ Our last war against the Ottoman Empire having been attended with the most signal successes, we had certainly acquired the right of re-uniting to the territories of our empire the Crimea, of which we were in possession: we however, hesitated not to sacrifice that, with many other conquests, to our ardent desire of re-establishing the public tranquillity, and of confirming the good understanding and friendship between our empire and the Ottoman Porte. This motive induced us to stipulate for the freedom and independence of the Tartars, whom we had reduced by our arms; hoping to remove for ever, by this means, every cause of dissention, and even coolness, between Russia and the Ottoman Porte, exposed too often to these inconveniences by the form of government which then subsisted among the Tartars.

“ Great

“ Great as were our sacrifices and our efforts for realising those hopes, they were soon, to our great regret, considerably diminished. The restlessness natural to the Tartars, fomented by insinuations, the source of which is not unknown to us, caused them easily to fall into a snare laid by foreign hands, which had sowed amongst them the seeds of disturbance and confusion, to such a degree, as to induce them to labor for the weakening, and even the total ruin of an edifice which our beneficent cares had erected for the happiness of that nation, by procuring them liberty and independance, under the authority of a chief elected by themselves. Hardly was their Khan established, according to this new form of government, before he saw himself deprived of all authority, and even obliged to desert his country, to give place to an usurper, who would again subject the Tartars to the yoke of dominion, from which our beneficence had released them. The greater part of them, as blind as they were ignorant, had submitted to that usurper; the rest, thinking themselves too weak to resist, would infallibly have yielded to his yoke; and thus we should have lost the fruits of our victories, and the principal recompence for the sacrifices which we willingly made at the last peace, if we had not instantly taken under our immediate protection, such of the well-disposed Tartars, who prizing the blessings

ings of their new political existence, lamented their being forced to submit to the usurper who had expelled their lawful Khan. By thus effectually protecting them, we furnished them with the power and the means of chusing a new Khan, in the room of Sahib-Gheray, and of establishing an administration analagous to this state of affairs. It was to attain this end, that our military forces were put in motion; that a considerable body of our troops were ordered, notwithstanding the severity of the season, to enter the Crimea, where they were subsisted at our expence, and obliged to exert the power of our arms for the support of the good cause, in order to recal such of the Tartars as were estranged from it by their revolt. The public is not ignorant that a rupture between Russia and the Ottoman Porte had very near ensued upon this occasion; but thanks to the Divine assistance, we disposed matters in such a manner, that the Ottoman Porte again acknowledged the independence of the Tartars, and the validity of the election of Schaghin-Gheray, their lawful sovereign. Notwithstanding all the inconveniencies abovementioned, as long as we were sustained and animated by the hope of re-establishing the repose necessary to the advantage and preservation of good neighbourhood with the Ottoman empire, we regarded the Crimea according to the tenour and letter of the treaties, as a
free

free and independent country, confining ourself solely to the appeasing the troubles which prevailed amongst them : from our love of peace, we found in this conduct a sufficient recompence for the great expences incurred by it ; but we were soon undeceived in this respect, by the fresh revolt occasioned in the Crimea last year, the encouragement of which always flowed from the same source. We have been obliged in consequence, to have recourse again to considerable armaments, and to cause troops to enter into the Crimea and Cuban, whose presence were become indispensable for maintaining tranquility and good order in the adjacent countries. The sad experience of every day demonstrates more clearly, that if the sovereignty of the Ottoman Porte in the Crimea, was a perpetual source of discord between our two empires, the independence of the Tartars exposes us to subjects of contention no less numerous and important, since the long servitude to which that people have been accustomed, has rendered the greater part of the individuals incapable of valuing the advantages of the new situation procured for them by that independence, of which we sought to give them the enjoyment ; and, which, laying us under the necessity of being always armed, occasions not only great expences, but also exposes our troops to inevitable and continual fatigue.

“ The

“ The efforts they made to extinguish the flame of discord, in succouring the well intentioned of that nation, exposed whom we were willing to leave unpunished, in order to avoid even the shadow of an act of sovereignty, so long as we could cherish the least hope of at length restoring good order, and preventing by this means the essential interests of our empire from being injured,

“ But to our great regret all these measures, dictated solely by our love of humanity, tended only to bring upon us losses and damages, which we have the more sensibly at heart, as they affected our subjects. The loss in men is not to be appreciated; we will not attempt to estimate it; that in money, according to the most moderate calculations, amounts to upwards of Twelve Millions of roubles. To these particulars is to be added another of the utmost importance, both in its object and with regard to its consequences: we have just been informed that the Porte has begun to lay claim to the exercise of sovereignty in the Tartar dominions, by sending one of their officers, at the head of a detachment of troops, to the island of Taman, who has even proceeded to cause the officer, to be publicly beheaded who was sent to him by the Khan Schaghin Gheray, with a commission only to enquire of him what were the motives for his arrival
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in that island; and what evidently proves the nature of the mission of this commandant of the troops is, that he made no difficulty in declaring openly to the inhabitants of Taman, that he looked upon them as subjects of the Porte. This decisive though unexpected step, convincing us of the inutility of the sacrifices we had made upon the last peace, annuls in consequence the engagements we had contracted with the sole intention of firmly establishing the freedom and independence of the Tartars, and sufficiently authorizes us to enter again into the enjoyment of those rights which we had lawfully acquired by conquest; the more so, as it is the only means remaining for us to secure hereafter a solid and permanent peace between the two Empires. Animated therefore with a sincere desire of confirming and maintaining the last peace concluded with the Porte, by preventing the continual disputes which the affairs of the Crimea produced, one duty to ourself, and the preservation of the security of our empire, equally demand our taking the firm resolution to put an end, once for all, to the troubles in the Crimea; and for this purpose we re-unite to our empire the peninsula of Crimea, the island of Taman, and all the Cuban, as a just indemnification for the losses sustained, and the expences we have been obliged to incur in
main-

maintaining the peace and welfare of these territories.

“ In declaring to the inhabitants of those countries by the present Manifesto, that such is our Imperial pleasure, we promise them, for us and our successors in the Imperial Throne of Russia, that they shall be treated upon an equality with our ancient subjects: and that, in taking them under our high protection, we will defend against all people their persons, their estates, their temples, and the religion they profess; that they shall enjoy the most absolute liberty of conscience, without the least restriction in the public exercise of their worship and their ceremonies; and that not only the nation in general, but also each individual in particular, shall participate in all the advantages enjoyed by our ancient subjects. But we also expect, from the gratitude of our new subjects, that touched with these favours, they will be sensible of the value of this fortunate revolution, which removes them from a convulsed state of disturbances and dissensions to one of entire security and perfect tranquillity under the protection of the laws: and that, striving to imitate the submission, zeal, and fidelity of those who have long had the happiness of living under our Government, they will render themselves worthy of our Imperial favour, beneficence, and protection.

Given

Given at our Imperial residence of St. Petersburg;
the 8th of April, in the year of Grace, 1783, and
in the 21st year of our reign.

(Signed with her Imperial Majesty's own hand)

“ CATHERINE, L. S.”

The Porte answered the above Russian Manifesto in a most masterly style. After animadverting on the incroaching spirit of the Court of Petersburg, the Porte proceeded to invalidate the claims of the Empress to the Crimea, and to expose the wantonness of power which induced her Imperial Majesty to claim the Black Sea, with the isles of Taman and Cuban. “ What pretensions of right (said the replication of the Porte) can her Imperial Majesty have to territories annexed for ages to the dominion of the Porte? Would such claims on any part of the Russian empire not be instantly refuted? And can it be presumed that the Sublime Porte, however desirous of peace, will acquiesce in what ambition may term policy, but justice and equity would deem usurpation? What northern power has the Porte offended? Whose territories have the Ottoman troops invaded? In the country of what Prince is the Turkish standard displayed? Content with the boundaries of empire assigned by God and his Prophet, the wishes of the Porte are for peace; but if the Court of Russia be deter-
mined

mined in her claims, and will not recede without an acquisition of territory which does not belong to her, appealing to the world for the justice of the proceeding, the Sublime Porte must prepare for war, relying on the decrees of Heaven, and confident of the interposition of the Prophet or Prophets, who will protect his faithful followers in the hour of every difficulty." This extract is sufficient to shew the style of the answer to the Russian Manifesto: and from the modern eloquence contained in the piece, it is manifestly not a Turkish composition. The Sublime Porte was indebted to some French or English pen for this literary vindication of the Ottoman rights.

At this time the Cabinet of Versailles having demanded of that of St. James's an express declaration on the part she intended to take, in case of a war between Russia and the Turks, the question was agitated in the Privy Council, when Mr. Fox was for an alliance with Russia; but Lord North and the other Members represented, "That since Russia did not assist England in its distress, and likewise that the Northern Confederacy, of which she was the chief, had been projected against the British rights and pretensions; England, just freed from a war which had emptied her Treasury, had very little reason to embroil herself again in fa-

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your of the Court of Petersburgh." This sentiment prevailed in the Council, and the declaration being made to the Court of Versailles, his most Christian Majesty's Ministers in return hastened the conclusion of the Treaties with England.

An account was received this year, that the Clergy, Beys, and Nobility, with several towns and tribes dwelling beyond the river Cuban, &c. had taken the oath of allegiance to the Empress, who, at this time was mediatrix for accommodating the difference between the King of Prussia, and the city of Dantzic. She interposed in favour of the Emperor's claim to the Schelde. The following is a translation of a letter from the Empress to his Prussian Majesty :

" My advantageous sentiments respecting the house of Prussia, sentiments of which I have given efficacious proofs, permit me to hope for the same on their part. I expect it the more as I have ever been convinced of their reciprocal affection. The war which is preparing between the Emperor of the Romans and the Hollanders excites the immediate attention of the Cabinet of Berlin, of which the Dutch endeavour by all sorts of intrigues to secure the accession. Your wisdom acknowledges that the pretensions of the Emperor are equally just and
mode-

moderate. Nature herself hath granted to the Austrian Low Countries the use and advantage of the river in dispute; Austria alone, by virtue of the law of nature and nations, is intitled to an exclusive right to the use of the river in question. So that the equity and disinterestedness of Joseph II. can only impart this right to other people, it belonging exclusively to his states. The sentiments of Austria merit esteem and attention, but the avidity of the Dutch, and the judgment which they permit themselves to assume on account of the Treaty of Munster over the House of Austria, are notorious and blameable in every respect.

“ Nothing can be alledged with foundation in favour of Holland, therefore she merits not the assistance of any foreign power. The consequences which these republicans are drawing upon themselves by their obstinacy, must be submitted to the moderation of the Emperor alone. I am firmly resolved to assist his pretensions with all my land and sea forces, with as much efficacy as if the welfare of my own empire was in agitation. I hope that this declaration of my sentiments will meet with the success which our reciprocal friendship deserves, and which hath never been interrupted.

CATHERINE.”

The Dutch answer to the Empress's interposition is as follows :

“ According to advices from the Hague, the answer given by the States General to the memorial of M. de Kalitchon, the Russian Envoy, contains in substance, “ That their High Mightinesses were very sensible of the part that her Majesty the Empress of Russia was pleased to take in the difference that had unhappily arisen between the Republic and the Emperor ; that it had never been their intention to insult the Imperial flag, which was proved by the order sent immediately after the last declaration made on the part of the Emperor, to the commandant of the ships of war stationed on the Lower Escaut, not to come to blows with the Imperial ship in question, but to endeavour amicably to divert her from her intention in that respect ; but that this order had unhappily come too late to the commandant by two hours after the cannon shot had been fired ; a shot, however, by which nothing was done but what was practised on similar occasions, and which had served only to defend and preserve the incontestible rights of the Republic over the Escaut ; rights which she had stipulated, and which had been insured to her by the most solemn treaties, and which she had enjoyed from time immemorial, without their having ever been contested in any manner

manner whatsoever: that their High Mightinesses were ready to renew the negotiations, which had not been broke off on their side; and that they flattered themselves that her Imperial Majesty would condescend, by her good offices, to dispose the Emperor to agree to it, in order to effect an accommodation, such as would not hurt his dignity, nor the Independence of the Republic, &c."

October 21. After a solemn consecration by the metropolite Gabriel, and other clergy, (Princess Deshkoff presiding) the new institution of the Imperial Russian Academy was opened in the great hall of the Academy of Sciences. Towards the end of the year, the school for surgery was opened at Petersburg, and a school commission instituted for supervising all the public schools.

The following Treaty of Peace between the Empress of Russia and the Grand Seignior, took place early the succeeding year:

"The Imperial Court and the Sublime Ottoman Porte, desirous of seizing every occasion which can tend to conciliate and establish a perfect harmony and friendship between the two powers; and considering the new face of affairs, and state of things in the Crimea, at Taban, and in Cuba, are likely

to occasion discussion, and perhaps a rupture between the two powers, the above Imperial and Ottoman Courts, have resolved to come to a friendly negotiation on the said subject, and after having duly weighed and considered them, are ardently desirous of preventing for the future any subject of contention between them, and also the advantages of a solid and happy peace, of good neighbourhood and established commerce, have found it necessary to regulate their future measures upon a solid and permanent foundation.

“ In consequence of these resolutions, the above powers having fully explained themselves each to the other, on the above subjects, and desirous of stipulating the present treaty under the most solemn engagements and exact observance, have chosen, and furnished with full powers to compleat the said treaty, the following persons, namely—her Imperial Majesty, the most August and Powerful Empress and Sovereign of all the Russias, has named on her part, the high and noble Jaques de Bullakows, her Envoy extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Sublime Ottoman Porte, Councillor of State and Knight of the orders of Saint Waldimir and Saint Stanislaus; and his Majesty the Sultan Ottoman, has nominated on his part, the most honoured and most esteemed Vizier Kassan Pacha, his
Grand

Grand Admiral, Stambul Cadisi, actual Cadiaskir of Natolic, Mufti Zade-Ahmed, Effendi, and his Grand Chancellor the actual Hadgi Mustafa Effendi, which Plenipotentiaries aforesaid, after having mutually exchanged their credentials in due form, have signed and sealed the following articles :

Art. 1. That the treaty of peace of 1774, the convention of the limits of boundaries of 1771, the explanatory convention of 1779, and the treaty of commerce of 1783, shall continue to be strictly and inviolably observed in all their points and articles, save and except the 3d and 4th article of the explanatory convention of 1779, which said articles shall be of no longer weight or obligatory force between the two empires.

But as in the aforesaid 3d article of the said treaty of 1774, it is declared that the fortress of Oczakow, with all its ancient territories, shall belong as formerly to the Sublime Porte, this declaration shall continue in full force and weight, and continue still to be observed as therein set forth.

Art. 2. It is hereby declared, that the Imperial Court of Russia shall never lay claim to the rights that the Khan of Tartary have formed upon the fortress of Sondjone-Cale, and consequently the

Court of Russia, acknowledges the full and sole possession to be in the Ottoman Porte.

Art. 3. That in admitting the River Cuba to be the frontier of Cuba, the said Imperial Court, at the same time, renounces her pretensions to all the Tartar nations, beyond the above river, and from the Black Sea.

“ And it is hereby also definitively agreed, that this act, as well as the part of her Imperial Majesty, the most august and powerful Empress of all the Russias, as well as on the part of his Highness the Sultan Ottoman, agreed and confirmed by solemn ratifications, signed and written in the accustomed manner, shall be exchanged at Constantinople in the space of four months or sooner if possible, to reckon from the day of the conclusion of the said Treaty, of which their Plenipotentiaries have made their proper counterparts, signed with their hand-writings, sealed with their seals, and mutually exchanged between them.

“ Done and signed at Constantinople, the 9th day of January, 1784.

(Signed) JAQUES DE BULLAKOWS.”

Plenipotentiary from the Empress of Russia, and
by the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries above named.

By

By this Treaty the Empress of Russia acquired not only the empire of the Crimea, the isle of Taman, and a considerable part of Cuba, but an incontestible right to the empire of the Black Sea, and thereby the future controul of the commerce of Constantinople, by which also she added 1,500,000 new subjects to her empire, and deprived Turkey of the resources which Crimea furnished for the supply of the cavalry.

Her Imperial Majesty now granted a free trade to the coasts of the Euxine Sea, and took a journey to the Crimea to be crowned Empress of the east. The Ambassadors from David, Czar of Imeretia, were admitted to a public audience with her Majesty, &c. in the name of the Czar and his subjects, acknowledged her pre-eminence.

On the King of Prussia's remonstrating with her Imperial Majesty concerning the bartering projects between the Emperor of Germany and the Elector of Bavaria ; the answer given by the Empress runs in substance as follows :

“ The Empress had conceived this project to be the only sure means of preventing a war ; and upon this ground she very seriously wished for its being carried into immediate execution. These her Ma-

jeſty's ſentiments had indeed dictated the letter written by her on the ſubject to the Duke of Deux Ponts, inviting him, in the moſt friendly manner, to come into the ſcheme; but finding herſelf ill requited for her good offices, to judge from the answer her Maſteſty received from the Duke, which is of a tenor ſhe neither can nor ſhall give any reply to, the Empreſs therefore declares to the King, that ſhe has no intentions to enforce this bartering project to take place, unleſs the parties more immediately concerned ſhall have fully agreed to it."

About this time the public ſchool in Vironetſh was opened, and her Maſteſty held, perſonally a public examination of all the young ladies educated in the Devitza Monastic: ſhe alſo viſited the principal national ſchool, and paſſed ſome time in examining each claſs, on which occaſion a marble tablet was fixed in the wall of the fourth, with this inſcription in gold letters—" THOU VISITEST
" THE VINEYARD WHICH THY OWN HAND
" HATH PLANTED, Jan. 21, 1785."

Her Maſteſty's birth-day was always kept with demonſtrations of joy and great feſtivity. This year the Empreſs, beſides promoting as uſual many of her officers and civil ſervants, cauſed an edict to be publiſhed, conferring a number of important
and

and beneficial privileges upon different classes of her subjects, and particularly upon the nobility and gentry.

May 24. Her Imperial Majesty set out from Czariko Zelo, attended by some of the principal officers of the Court, on a tour in the provinces of Novogorod and Twer, to visit a navigable canal in the province of Twer, a work of the highest importance to the Russian commerce in general, and particularly to Petersburg, as by uniting the rivers Mista and Twertz (the latter of which falls into the Volga,) is established a complete water communication between the several provinces of this empire, from the shores of the Caspian sea to those of the Baltic. The head of this canal is at a place called Vischnet Velotchek. She returned to Petersburg in June, and the following month (July 3,) visited the hardware manufactories at Sisterbeck in Finland.

The following manifesto inviting foreigners, was published by the Empress:

“ The protection which we are accustomed to give to foreigners who come into our empire for the purposes of commerce and industry, is generally known. Every person in enjoying within our realms

the free exercise of the religion of his ancestors, finds complete security, the protection of the laws, and of government, all the necessities of life, and the conveniencies suitable to his rank, and the means of enriching himself are presented in a fruitful soil, and in the articles of commerce. The country of Caucasus, subject to our sceptre, abounds in these resources in preference to others; and as it is at present through our care, within the jurisdiction of an administration, the same as the other governments of our empire, it offers an asylum safe and advantageous to strangers, who may incline to settle there, either in the towns or country parts. In permitting them therefore, in our grace to settle there, and to quit the same without molestation, whenever their business of commerce, handicraft, industry, or manufacture, may require it; and in ordering all our officers, judges, and magistrates, to grant them the necessary passports and assistance, we promise on our Imperial word, that under the protection of the laws, besides the free exercise of their religion and culture, they shall not only enjoy the same rights and advantages of our proper subjects, but from particular favour to this new establishment, they shall be exempt for six years from all the charges of the Crown. If even at the expiration of this term, they may desire to depart from our empire,

pire, they shall have entire liberty so to do, on paying only once for all the rights of three years.

Given at Czarisko Zelo, the 14th day of July,
in the year of our Lord 1785, and of our
reign the 24th.

CATHERINE."

A proclamation to the above effect, was published about the same time at Peterburgh.

Having signed a treaty of commerce with the Court of Vienna, her Majesty, always magnificent in the presents which she made, sent to the Prince de Kaunitz Ritberg, a complete collection of all the medals and gold coin of the empire: this precious collection was valued at 6,000 ducats at least. Besides which the Empress made the following presents, viz. to the Ambassador from the Court of Vienna, besides the usual present of 4,000 ducats for himself, 1,000 ducats for his secretary, and a rich brilliant ring, valued at between 4,000 and 5,000 roubles; also valuable presents to the first and second Secretaries of the embassy from Vienna. The court of Vienna, also sent the Secretary of the empire of Russia many magnificent presents valued at 30,000 ducats, which presents were to be divided among

all the Secretaries, clerks. &c. of the Chancery of the empire.

Early in 1786, her Imperial Majesty issued a most liberal ordnance, declaring to all the inhabitants of both the Russias, Tartary, &c. that they were not hereafter to address her as *slaves* (the term made use of for many centuries) but as her loyal *subjects*—a circumstance which added greatly to the Czarina's popularity throughout her vast dominions.

The government having resolved to cause a more exact survey to be made than had been done hitherto of the eastern parts of the Russian dominions, which extend from the Wolga towards the Grand Tartary, on the confines of China, 360 persons formed themselves into a kind of caravan, to enter upon that expedition, which, exclusive of its being very tedious and fatiguing, was not without great and imminent danger. By leave of the Empress, Prince Bishop of Novogorod was among the travellers. When the above company reached Moscow, they were joined by another detachment; they proceeded together to Casan, then along to Wolga, towards the Caspian sea, in order to pass afterwards through the eastern deserts,

farts, lying to the north of Bucharia, as far as Sell Ginski, near the frontiers of China.

In order to extend the discoveries, the Empress ordered a new expedition to be undertaken in April, and gave the command to Lieutenant-Colonel Bleumer.

CHAP.

C H A P. XI.

The Empress's journey to Crimea.—Second war with the Turks.—With Sweden.—Funeral of Admiral Greig.—Distribution of Rewards.—Conquests.—Empress's proposal for terminating the war with the Turks.—Peace with Sweden.—With the Porte, &c.

THE Empress having determined on a journey to her estates in Crimea, the Russian Minister gave formal notice to the Ottoman ministry of the journey of the Empress, adding, that the intention of her Majesty's visit was to regulate the government of her subjects. This journey was, however, very displeasing to the Divan, particularly as it was known that the Russian troops were filing off towards the Dnieper.

The Czarina's intent by this journey, was to be proclaimed sovereign of 2,500,000 new subjects, who paid her an annual subsidy of 3,000,000 of crowns, besides the produce of the customs. Crimea, now called Taurida, furnished 60,000 horse in less than a year. The soil, with little cultivation, yielded largely; and, that it might not want cultivation, the Empress resolved to increase the population

population of the new empire, by assembling families of the wandering Greeks in the Curdistan, Armenia, Mingrelia, Circassia, and Georgia.

Great respect was paid to her Majesty during her journey. The Tartars, and even the Mahometans, were eager to shew every civility to the illustrious travellers. They frequently furnished horses, and even lent their own carriages. The Popes, the Cossacks, and the Greeks, where they lodged, vied with each other in the splendour of their entertainments.

Another war between the Russians and Turks began to discover itself. The Janifaries, impatient of peace, cried out for war, in which they were joined by the voice of the people. The Grand Signior and Divan, unable to resist the popular fury, were compelled publicly to declare, that, should the dispatches, hourly expected from Chersén, prove unfavourable to their wishes, they would that instant cause the banners of the Imperial crescent to fly in the heart of the dominions of their enemies. In the mean time, her Imperial Majesty of Russia was suffered to proceed on her journey; and the two great Potentates of Poland and Germany to have conferences with her without interruption. After hearing divine service at the cathedral

cathedral of Kiow, she embarked (May 3) with her suite on board the fleet of gallies, consisting of 50 vessels of different sizes, and proceeded down the Dineper. On the 7th the fleet anchored opposite to Kaman, at the distance of about a mile from the Polish shore, and was saluted by the discharge of an hundred pieces of cannon from a neighbouring hill, which was returned from the Imperial galley, and the other gallies in succession. His Polish Majesty having accepted of an invitation from the Empress to dine and pass the day on board the fleet, her Imperial Majesty was pleased to invest him with the order of St. Andrew; and at eight o'Clock the same evening, as the Empress intended to proceed on her voyage early the next morning, the King took leave of her Imperial Majesty, having been in private conference with her for more than an hour. On the 23d her Majesty reached Cherson. The Emperor had arrived at that place on the 15th; but, finding that the Empress was not expected to arrive for some days, he set out to meet her; of which the Empress having a few hours notice, she went on shore to his Majesty; and their first interview took place a little above Ekaterinosslaw, where the Empress's whole suite disembarked, and proceeded by land to Cherson. On the 28th of May their Imperial Majesties set out for the Crimea.

July

July 26. The Ottoman ministry invited M. de Bulgakow to a conference, at which the Grand Vizier Reis Effendi and Secretary of State presided, and delivered the six following articles in the form of requisitions :

1. As they had found by experience, that the consul, whom the court of Russia had established in Moldavia, was a restless and turbulent man, who endeavoured by every means to embroil the two empires ; his Highness insisted on his being obliged to leave the Ottoman States without delay.

2. As the troubles which had subsisted for two years in Georgia had evidently resulted from the protection granted by the Empress to Prince Heraclius of Georgia, contrary to the spirit of treaties ; it was but just that the troops of Russia should abandon Teflis, and retire so far back as to re-establish the tranquillity of that country.

3. The Russian vessels that pass by Constantinople having always on board prohibited merchandize ; his Highness requires, that they shall be visited without exception.

4. The Sublime Porte, having been informed with certainty, that Prince Alexander Maurocordato,

dato, who in the beginning of February had escaped from Yari, had been sheltered in Russia, demands that he be given up.

5. He requires a supply of salt from the Russians to the Turks of Oczakow, according to their wants.

6. His Highness requires the establishment of Agents in the Russian States, for the protection of the commerce of his subjects.

This conference is said to have lasted a considerable time; when M. de Bulgakow, not having sufficient instructions, begged he might be permitted to write to his Sovereign on the subject; which request he obtained; but, on the 6th of August, an extraordinary Divan was assembled, when the majority of the council siding with the Grand Vizier and Reis Effendi, it was judged most expedient to declare war without waiting for an answer from Peterburgh. Accordingly, on the 18th of August last, war was declared in form at Constantinople, and M. de Bulgakow committed to the prison of the Seven Towers.

The declaration of war, published by the Ottoman Porte, and the imprisonment of the Russian Minister

Minister at Constantinople having reached the Court of Petersburg, her Imperial Majesty caused a short Manifesto to be drawn up, and delivered to the Foreign Ministers, in which she declared, that ever since the peace of Kainardgi to the present moment, the Porte had shewn, in all her conduct, the most manifest want of faith, and a disposition to render the essential stipulations then made of no effect. After all differences had been adjusted, and every thing seemed to promise a durable peace, the next Turkish Minister, who succeeded to that under which all those friendly negotiations had passed, discovered dispositions diametrically opposite to their spirit; and ill-founded pretensions soon arose respecting the exportation of salt, which had been granted by treaty to the inhabitants of Oczakow. Russian consuls were denied entrance to the stipulated parts; protection and encouragement were publicly given to the Lesgis and Tartars of the Cuban, to make their incursions on the States in amity with her Imperial Majesty; and, as if that was not sufficient to effect the rupture in view, they excited the Tartars to penetrate into the frontiers of her Imperial Majesty's dominions, where they robbed, pillaged, and carried off whatever was not defended by regular troops.

After

After reciting these, and other enormities of the like kind, the manifesto concludes in the following manner :—

“ Provoked by a conduct so offensive, the Empress is obliged, much against her will, to have recourse to arms, as the only means which remain to maintain her rights, which she has acquired at the price of so much blood, and to avenge her wounded dignity by the violences done to her Minister. Entirely innocent of all those evils which the war is going to kindle, and will be accompanied with, she has a right to reckon, not only on the Divine protection, and the succours of her friends, but also on the wishes of all the Christian world, for the triumph of a cause so just as that which she is forced to defend herself.”

On the part of Russia, the war was begun with ardour, and prosecuted with success. But the views and policy of Russia extended further than even her own power, however great, seemed qualified to accomplish. She had seduced Joseph II. into her designs of conquest, and the overthrow of the Ottoman empire seemed inevitable against such powerful operation.

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The Empress was not amused by the affairs *abroad* from securing her popularity *at home*. On the 25th anniversary of her reign, she was remarkably bountiful. She forgave debtors to the crown, released prisoners, took off imports, rewarded soldiers, &c. &c.

A second Manifesto was published by the Empress, dated Sept. 18, 1787, which contained a brief recapitulation of the events of the former war, by which she became mistress of Crimea and the adjacent country—the requisitions of the Porte, to which “The Porte had the arrogance to insist on a categorical answer,” and the arrest of the Russian Minister for not yielding to “These absurd demands”—after which it thus concludes:—

“From this impartial detail of things, drawn up with the most scrupulous regard to truth, the impartial world will do justice to our pacific sentiments, to our condescension, and to the pains we have taken to preserve a good understanding with the Ottoman Porte; and that this is the second time that we have been unwillingly drawn into war by the unmerited provocations of the enemy of the Christian name. As therefore we arm ourselves, not from inclination, but from necessity, to defeat the malignant machinations of the enemy, we have com-
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manded our armies to assemble, and have ordered our Field Marshal General Romanzow, and the Prince Potemkin, to proceed against the Ottomans, trusting that the righteous God, who has so long and so powerfully protected Russia, will continue to accompany our arms, and give us strength to render to the enemy according to his works.

CATHERINE."

The arms of both their Imperial Majesties were uniformly victorious: but the attention and the force of Joseph was soon divided, by an alarming revolt in his Austrian Provinces, which threatened a very considerable dismemberment of his empire.

Prior to this period it was too, that the King of Sweden, either dreading the rapid increase of the Russian power, or anxious to regain what his predecessors had been forced to concede to the Czars, resolved to attack Russia, while her power was weakened by division. As a reasonable pretext in the King of Sweden for taking up arms against Russia, upon the present occasion, it was alledged, that the Russian Ambassador, at the instigation of his mistress, aimed to disseminate sentiments of civil discord through the Swedish empire. This, the established policy of the Russian Court, seemed amply to confirm. Sweden has often experienced the
 miseries

miserics of civil war, the seeds of which the insidious Muscovite had industriously sown, and from which he never failed to reap the most signal advantages.

Declaration of the Empress of Russia against Sweden.

“ It was towards the end of last winter that the armaments by sea and land began to shew themselves in Sweden. Whispers were purposely circulated in the kingdom, as if Russia meditated an attack. In proportion as these preparations advanced, and as they believed they had made an impression on some national spirits, the cabinet of Stockholm began to extend rumours of the same kind, even to foreign courts. The Empress has the satisfaction to learn, that these insinuations have every where failed of their aim. In truth, the Courts of Europe are too enlightened, to believe that Russia, after having for so long a time maintained a pacific system in regard to Sweden, had chosen to depart from it in the moment when she was engaged in a war so serious as that in which the Ottoman Porte had involved her.

“ In the mean time, the Empress, attentive to every thing which passed in a place so adjacent to her territories, judged it necessary, on the information and advice which she received, not to neglect
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to take measures of precaution. But, anxious to avoid every thing which might give umbrage, or excite alarm, she contented herself with ordering to Finland, a slight reinforcement of troops, and with establishing in that province magazines, proportionate to their number, and indispensably necessary to their subsistence. In fine, reposing on the innocence and rectitude of her intentions, on the religious tenure of the perpetual treaty subsisting between the Empress of Russia, and the kingdom of Sweden, and, above all, not knowing of any one subject of discussion, open or concealed, between the two Courts—the amicable correspondence, on the contrary, continuing, as usual between them—she had undoubtedly, every right to think, that, strong as might be the ambition, the uneasiness, and the envy of the Imperial Powers, the true motives that could impel the Swedish monarch to make war upon her, must be repressed by the respect to good faith, which ought to actuate the hearts of Sovereigns more even than of other men; by the impossibility of giving any colour of equity to the flight which he wished to give to his passions; and in fine, by the obstacle equally strong, that of the solemn compact he had made with his people, not to undertake any war, without assembling, consulting, and obtaining the consent of his subjects.

“ Nothing

“ Nothing could prove more effectually the satisfaction which should have been placed in her Imperial Majesty’s various assurances, than the resolution which she took of detaching from the fleet, destined for the Archipelago, a squadron of only three ships, which she sent to sea in the beginning of this month, notwithstanding the positive advices she had of all the Swedish fleet being cruising in the Baltic. These ships, three days after their departure from the port of Cronstadt, fell in, off the Isle of Dago, with the Swedish fleet, which detached a frigate, the Captain of which came aboard of the ship of the Vice-admiral Vanderseer, who commanded this little squadron. The Captain of the frigate announced to the Vice-admiral the presence of the Duc de Sudermania, the King’s brother, the commander of the Swedish fleet, and required the salute. The Vice-admiral replied, that by the 17th article of the Treaty of Abo, no salute could take place between the Russian and Swedish fleets; but that respecting, in the person of the Duc de Sudermania, the cousin-german of the Empress, and the brother of the King of Sweden, he had no difficulty in rendering to these distinctions all the honours that were due. He then ordered a salute with thirteen guns, and sent an officer on board the Duke’s ship, to pay his compliments, and to announce to him, at the same time, that it was to his

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person

person only, that the honours were addressed. The answer of the Duke of Sudermania was, that although he was not ignorant of the tenor of the Convention made between the Courts of Sweden and Russia, in regard to the salute, he would not accept of that himself, which was to be rendered to the Swedish flag, as he had received the most precise orders from the King, his brother, to make the flag respected in every place, and on every occasion.

“ The Empress had hardly had time to make her complaints on the injustice and irregularity of this proceeding to the Court of Stockholm, when she was informed of the proceeding still less expected, of the dismissal of her Minister from the Swedish Court and territories. The pretended reasons of this measure are exposed in the Declaration of the King, made to the Ministers of Foreign Courts. These reasons are not calculated to impose on the most unenlightened, and they therefore require no answer; but one cannot help observing, that it is the first example of the kind, by which a Sovereign assured his subjects of the pacific and benevolent sentiments he entertained towards them.

“ In the mean time, the Empress, resolving to continue to the last, in the principles of moderation,
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she had professed, confined her resentment of this proceeding to the reciprocity which she was naturally authorized to use in regard to the Minister of the King of Sweden. She signified to him to quit her Court in the same space of time which had been fixed for her Minister at Stockholm. The only difference in the proceeding was, that all false and insidious imputation was carefully avoided. This difference has been established and demonstrated, indeed, by the good faith which has accompanied the cause of the Empress, and the breach of faith, which has marked the whole conduct of the King of Sweden.

“ Notwithstanding these scenes, which threatened an almost inevitable war, the Empress was pleased to cherish hopes that the amicable explanations which the Swedish Monarch had himself promised the Foreign Powers, might yet tend to preserve the good harmony and neighbourhood, which no one reason of state on either side tended to interrupt. But this hope is totally vanished. She learns that on the 21st or 22^d of this month, the troops of the King of Sweden, having fallen hastily on the frontiers of Russia, have carried off the money deposited in several custom-houses, have penetrated to the environs of Nieslar, and have even opened the siege of its castle.

“ It is by a series of violent proceedings, of which every one infringes on the rights the most generally received among civilized nations, that the King of Sweden, without having complained of one grievance against Russia, hath at length pushed to the uttermost the moderation of the Empress, and has obliged her to have recourse to the only remedy which is left her, of repelling force by force. It is with regret, that she issues these orders to the commanders of her forces by land and sea. In making known this resolution, as well as the motives that have provoked her to it, to the friendly powers, she protests to them, that the King of Sweden is alone responsible to God, to the world, and to his own people, for all the calamities to which his ambition and injustice may give rise.

“ *Petersburgh, June 30, 1788.*”

A circumstance happened at St. Petersburg, not a little distressing to her Imperial Majesty. On the appointment of Paul Jones to a command in the Russian fleet, the English officers, to the number of sixty, waited on the President of the Admiralty, and tendered their commissions, declaring, they would neither serve with or under that Renegado. By this step, seven or eight of their principal ships were so far dis-officered, as not to be able to sail till this matter was settled.

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The death of Admiral Greig seems to have given her Majesty much concern. He was interred Dec. 5, 1788, with great funeral pomp at Revel, by order of her Imperial Majesty of Russia. Some days before the procession took place, the body lay in state, dressed in the Admiral's grand uniform, having a crown of laurel on its head. The coffin placed on six massy silver feet, was covered with black velvet, lined with white sattin, and handles, fringes, and galons, all made of silver. The pillows for his head, and for the state-bed, were of white sattin, trimmed with rich blond lace. On each side of the bed were three tabourets (stools), covered with white sattin, richly trimmed with fringe and tufts of gold. On these stools were placed the Admiral's staff, and the five different orders of knighthood, which had been conferred upon him. (The enamel of one of the points of the cross of St. George, had been carried away, and the point bent, by a ball he received in the fight in the Archipelago with the Turks last war.) On twelve stands, covered with black, and ornamented with white crape and flowers, were placed twelve large silver candlesticks, with funeral wax tapers. The three flags of the deceased were hung at the head of the bed; two officers of the State Major, and six Captains of the Marine, who were alternately relieved, attended at the sides of the bed,

and two Lieutenants guarded the door of the hall, and sub-officers from thence quite to the door of the court ; also, a number of private centinels.

The procession was answerable in every respect, to the grandeur of the above solemnity. The body was drawn by six horses, properly decorated and attended, and placed in a tomb prepared on purpose in the cathedral of Revel, amidst a triple discharge of all the troops and cannon from the ramparts, together with those of the fleet. Such honours were never before paid to any naval commander in Russia.

The conquest of Oczakow, by the sacrifice of *only* 12,000 men, was represented so *glorious* for the Russians, that her Imperial Majesty was levying troops throughout her immense empire, in order to carry on her ravages against whatever power should dare to oppose the progress of her arms. Highly incensed against the Polish Republic, she ventured to quarter troops in one part of the Polish territories, and to excite disturbances in another.

Her Majesty's desire of extending her dominions was insatiable. Having by some captures secured the conquest of the Crimea, and her other acquisitions on the Black Seas, her next project appeared to have had for its object the detaching of Egypt from

from the Ottoman Empire, and obtaining a footing on the Red Sea. To accomplish this design, she had furnished the Baron de Thorus, sometime her Consul at Alexandria, with full powers, secretly to treat with the disaffected Beys, by offers of independent sovereignties, on condition of their shaking off the Ottoman yoke, and putting themselves under her Imperial Majesty's protection. The Baron, on the 11th of September last, embarked on the Nile, and on the 16th of the same month, was introduced to Ismael Bey, in his camp. Ismael, after hearing him out, instead of favouring his embassy, sent him guarded to the Pacha of Cairo, who immediately shut him in the castle, where he was to remain till orders arrived from Court as to his future destination.

On the 25th of April, the Empress of Russia distributed the rewards to those who distinguished themselves in the capture of Oczakow. Prince Potemkin received a staff of command, entwined with laurel, and richly adorned with diamonds, a letter of thanks, a medal struck in memory of his skilful and intrepid behaviour, and the sum of 100,000 roubles in money. To generals Prince Repnin and Mr. Suwarof—her Majesty gave to the former a gold sword, richly set with brilliants; and to the latter, a plume of brilliants to wear in his hat;

to Lieutenants-General Mr. de Naschitschokin, 700 peasants, Paul de Potemkin a sword, de Hecking a large estate in Livonia, and to Prince Gallitzin a sword; to Generals Baron Pahl 500 peasants; Mr. Bucholz, Tehmer, and Meknob, each a gold-hilted sword; to Colonels Rschewsky, Ponnakof, Kifelfef, Fischer, Desef, Marcof, and to Lieutenant-colonel Juschkof, each a gold-hilted sword; to the widow of Major Muller, of the artillery, killed in the attack of Oczakow, an estate in Livonia; to Major-general Meyendorf, Lieutenant-colonel Miller, and Major Herring, of the artillery, each an estate in Livonia; to all the subalterns and soldiers, each a medal of silver: her Majesty has besides made many promotions, and distributed a number of ribbons of orders.

Her Imperial Majesty, to remove every pretence for the neutral powers to take part against her, has caused the following declaration to be made public:

“ From the beginning of the unjust war, raised against Russia by the King of Sweden, the Empress has constantly endeavoured to maintain the trade and liberty of neutral vessels in the Baltic; and she flatters herself, that all commercial nations who trade on this sea, have received the most efficacious protection on her part, on which they may depend:.

but,

but seeing that, contrary to her will, that war is prolonged, her Imperial Majesty has again thought proper to openly publish her intentions on this subject, by a declaration fit to add to that confidence which she thinks to have already given the said nations, and be sufficient to engage them to pursue their course in that part of the sea, without fear or hesitation.

“ Therefore, her Imperial Majesty informs all those whom it may concern, that the strictest orders have been given to all her naval officers in the Baltic, to grant the most unquestionable protection to all trading vessels which may, during this war, enter this sea, and not to impede their navigation to any port of the Baltic they may be sailing to; but, on the contrary, to even procure them (if they want it) all possible assistance in their power, excepting from the number only such trading vessels which shall endeavour to supply the enemies of Russia with ammunition; such vessels being, according to the practice universally agreed to, looked upon as contraband, and liable to be confiscated.

“ Such solemn promises, against which her Imperial Majesty will not suffer her officers to derogate, or in any the least manner to infringe, will suffice to destroy the very idea of suspicion which

might still remain, with regard to the security of this navigation : and her Imperial Majesty expects that all neutral nations, without exception, will continue their transaction in the Baltic with the same safety to which they were accustomed before the rupture between Russia and Sweden.

Given at St. Peterburgh, *April* , 1769.

There were several conquests on the side of Russia, though she was not so successful as in the first war. Prince Potemkin took the island Bereson. A victory was gained over the Swedes, May 31, 1789. Sulkof and Fort St. Michael were taken. In the battle of Fokshany, (July 21,) Fokshany was taken to the great loss of the Turks. Prince Repnin made a successful attack near the river Selka. Count Suvoroff gained a complete victory near the river Kymnik against near 1,000 Turks, from which he bore the surname *Kymnikskoi*. General Ribbas took the Turkish citadel Chadshebey. Belgorod surrendered to Prince Potemkin, when the fortress Palanka was taken. Bender submitted at discretion. General Numfen gained a victory near Memel. Prince Charles of 64 guns was taken from the Swedes, who were defeated, June 6, 1790, by Major Buxhevdén, on the island Uranfari. The Swedish fleet, commanded by the Duke of Sudermania, were entirely defeated by
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Admiral Tchilshagoff, and about the same time General Denisoff defeated the Swedes near Deviodoff. Admiral Ushakoff obtained a victory over the Turkish fleet.

The diversion made by Sweden in the north, though conducted with energy and spirit, seemed little to benefit the cause of the Turks, as success still attended all the operations of the Russian arms. This trying occasion evinced to the world the amazing power of that empire; notwithstanding the King of Sweden exerted himself with the spirit of a warrior, and the gallantry of a man, yet the superiority of the Russian fleet soon reduced him to extremities. His situation at Wibourg threatened something decisive. He seemed to expect assistance; with what justice has not yet been made apparent; but he was indebted to his own resolution alone for his extrication from a danger, the fatal consequences of which appeared imminent and inevitable.

The Empress of Russia, now adopted a species of policy equally new and magnanimous. With a facility almost incredible, she converted a galling and hereditary foe into a friend and ally, though that foe was beginning to feel the impression of her power, and was almost reduced to the necessity of

receiving terms, as from the hand of a conqueror. The conditions of peace, however, were liberal on the part of the Empress, and well calculated to banish every trace of animosity from the mind of the Swede, to awaken his gratitude, and conciliate his regard..

It is evident, that, upon this occasion, some mighty project must influence the Empress to forego the signal advantages, which her situation, with respect to Sweden, seemed to promise. It was in her power to have annihilated the little naval force which that kingdom still possessed, and have carried her arms into the very heart of the Swedish territories. These, however, appeared but trivial objects in the eyes of the Empress, and she readily sacrificed them to the acceleration of some project more splendid, and more likely to be productive of beneficial effects..

The proposals which the Empress made for terminating the war with the Turks, were as follow :

Art. 1. The simple and pure renewal of the ancient treaties and agreements which have taken place between the two powers since the peace of Kainardgi and the late rupture and the establishment of a new frontier between the two empires, marked

marked by the river Dniester, and including the cession of the town of d'Ackerman.

Art. 2. The provinces of Moldavia, Wallachia, and Bessarabia, to be created principalities, free and independent of both empires, in such a manner, that in future they shall serve as a barrier to both; and thus, by removing an adjacent neighbourhood, prevent those divisions and quarrels which have hitherto been the sole source of troubling their tranquillity.

Art. 3. The arrangement of these two points will sufficiently provide for the third, which is that of making a solid, stable, and lasting peace.

As to Sweden, the Empress demanded nothing but the re-establishment of the ancient treaties of Neustadt and d'Abo, with an entire oblivion of what had passed.

Upon the death of Joseph the Second, his successor, Leopold, with a more humane and paternal regard to the interests of his people, and a stricter observance of the principles of justice, consented, at the instigation of Prussia, to cease from the prosecution of a war, which no rule of equity could justify.

Russia

Russia, thus left without co-operation against the Turks, successfully pursued her original plans of conquest. The fortress Kultshe, and the Turkish flotilla, were taken. The fortress of Ismael, surrendered to Count Suvoroff Kymnikski, after a continual storming for seven years. The fortress Anap was taken by storm (June 22, 1791 :) in short the Turks were defeated in several battles.

A letter from her Imperial Majesty to Count Browne, Governor of Riga, first announced the suspension of arms between the Russians and Swedes. This letter was nearly in the following terms :

“ To our Governor, &c.

“ On the 3d [14th] of August was signed between us and the King of Sweden, an agreement for establishing an everlasting peace, and fixing our frontiers as they were before the war broke out. General Baron Ingelstroem signed it on our part ; and Baron d’Armfeldt, first Gentleman of the Bed-chamber to the King of Sweden, signed it on the part of his Majesty.

“ The ratification is to take place in ten days from its date. We give our thanks to Almighty God for the cessation of shedding of blood, and restoration of peace in these quarters ; and we hasten

to inform you thereof, conscious that this news will be agreeable both to you and all our subjects.

“CATHERINE.”

Zarskojezelo, Aug. 16, 1790.

The King of Prussia received the news of the peace between the Empress of Russia and the Swedes with astonishment at Breslaw. He had just advanced to his Swedish Majesty a considerable sum.

Her Imperial Majesty, accompanied by their Imperial Highnesses the Great Duke and Duchess, and the Great Dukes Alexander and Constantine, arrived in Peterburgh, Aug. 26, at ten o'clock, in order to assist at a *Te Deum*, celebrated on account of a peace with Sweden. This ceremony, and the proclamation in different parts of the city, was attended with extraordinary pomp; and in the evening there was an illumination.

The Empress was much displeased with Great Britain, for having asserted in a Gazette published by authority, that her Minister at Constantinople, M. de Belgakow, had been released from his confinement, through the interest of the British Ambassador there; whereas that minister still remained a prisoner in the Seven Towers. She had still more
grievous

grievous complaints against the English nation for supplying the Turkish fleet with ammunition, &c. (as she had been credibly informed by her agents at Constantinople,) without which they could not have ventured to put to sea. Great Britain's mediation having been rejected by Russia, she began to arm in defence of the Porte; notwithstanding, the politics of Mr. Fox so delighted her Majesty, that she requested a bust of that honourable Gentleman, which was accordingly transmitted and reported to be an excellent likeness.

Her Majesty, tired of this second war with the Turks, in which her policy was over-reached, now wished to make a termination; the following rescript was accordingly transmitted from the Court of Petersburg to that of Copenhagen, explanatory of her wishes and concessions, and delivered to the Ministers of the three allied Courts:

“ Russia cannot be insensible to the hardship of her present situation; she finds herself the intended victim of an unjust attack, and she has made use of the means granted her for repelling it. She is now conscious that it is not her enemies that are any longer to be dreaded; but her grief rises in proportion when she recollects, that she has now to contend with those powers whom she always looked upon

upon as her natural friends and allies, to whom she has given repeated proofs of attachment, and more than once facilitated a glorious peace, without shewing any inclination to dispute with them the natural advantages of their success. Her Imperial Majesty therefore cannot, without sorrow and surprise, behold the pretended equity of a factious basis of negotiation held out to her, when this alone ought to be adopted as the punishment of an aggressor, and which becomes not only the greatest injustice, when a Power that has been wantonly attacked is obliged to submit to it, but extremely partial, as it is entirely in favour of one of the parties.

“ As to the absolute *statu quo* now proposed, this has never been adopted by any of the Three Allied Courts themselves, for their own grandeur emanates from treaties which would never have taken place if this rule of conduct had been adopted, and indeed such a rule of conduct would cease to be just, were it enacted at any other period than during a time of profound peace, and by a common agreement among the Powers of Europe. Besides, nothing can be more unnatural than to deprive a Power from the right of claiming an indemnification from those who attack it, as this would be encouraging outrage and injustice, and, by diminishing the dangers

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attached to violent plans, would increase wars instead of diminishing them.

“ Her Imperial Majesty will neither contend about terms, nor abstract ideas ; but she appeals to the hearts of those Sovereigns whose friendship she desires, if there can exist a *statu quo* more equitable than that which she proposes, viz. to restore a number of extensive provinces, and in return to retain only one place, with its uncultivated district, solely for the preservation of her own frontier ; and she now asks if any Power, after a constant series of victories, has ever given such strong and decisive proofs of its moderation !

“ She still insists on these important considerations ; for she must not be confounded with those ambitious Sovereigns, whose alarming progress ought to be arrested : she only wishes to retain a place which is essential for her safety, and which is but an imperceptible point, whether it belongs to her empire or that of the nation whom she does not overwhelm with destruction, but to whom she restores nearly all her conquests, even those which they know not any longer either how to defend or preserve.

“ Her

“ Her Imperial Majesty, therefore, cannot imagine that it will be possible for the Three Allied Powers to feel their dignity affected by the substitution of a limited *statu quo* ; she recollects that England first made mention of the first propositions ; and besides, it will be easily seen, that the dignity of no other Power in the Universe, but that of Russia, can be affected ; who will find it impossible to persuade mankind, that her own moderation has alone induced her to give up all the advantages resulting from a fortunate war, as her good intentions will be always attributed to the necessity of ceding to the menacing application of a foreign interposition.

“ Russia most ardently desires the friendship of the Allied Powers ; and she will cultivate it with sincerity, when she has no longer any reason to fear that they wish rather to be the arbiters than the pacificators of Europe.

“ Her Imperial Majesty has thus solemnly explained herself on this subject, and also denoted her anxious desire of wishing to finish the war, and insure a permanent tranquillity.

“ It has given her the greatest uneasiness to have been forced to renounce the mediation of the Allied
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lied Courts, in order to effect a peace, and be obliged to procure it for herself at the expence of the blood of her people.

“ Her Imperial Majesty has also her duty to fulfil towards them, as she is obliged to prove to them, that their blood has not been unnecessarily spilt, and that she has continued the war on purpose to obtain, if not a glorious, yet an honourable peace. She therefore once more leaves it to the impartial judgment of the Allied Courts, whether a peace could be honourable to Russia, if all the advantages were on the side of an offending, but a repulsed and humiliated nation ?

“ It is also well known at Petersburg, how difficult it would be for the Three Allied Powers to guarantee a moderation on the part of the Turks, equal to that of Russia. Finally, her Imperial Majesty is well persuaded, that she will find these Courts, whom she regrets as her friends, as much inclined to moderation as she herself is ; this is the only rivalry to which the heart of her Imperial Majesty will open, for it will be inaccessible to that of threat or force.”

On the receipt of the above Rescript at Copenhagen, the Court of Denmark thought it of so much

much importance to the common cause, that two memorials expressive of the tenor of it, were instantly drawn up and dispatched to the Three Allied Courts of Berlin, London, and the Hague.

The following were the Preliminaries agreed upon between the Allied Courts and Russia, as the basis for negotiating peace between the Turks and Russians. These Preliminaries contain her Imperial Majesty's ultimatum; and prescribe the conditions on which the Allies are empowered to agree, on her part, with the Turks.

I. That Oczakow, with all its fortifications, and its whole district, shall remain in the possession of her Russian Majesty.

II. That all the country situated between the rivers Bog and Dniester shall, for the future, belong to Russia in full sovereignty.

III. That the river Dniester shall, for the future, determine the frontiers of both kingdoms.

IV. That the two Powers shall have a perfect and equal liberty to erect on the shores of the said river, which shores shall serve for frontiers to the

respective empires, as many fortresses as they shall think proper.

V. That her Imperial Majesty grants a free navigation to the river Dniester. And,

VI. That the Courts of London and Berlin will engage to propose to her the conditions to the Porte, and agree to declare to the Divan, that they could obtain no other conditions from her Imperial Majesty? and the Allied Courts expect the Porte will make no difficulty in accepting them: as, should the terms be rejected, they (the Allied Courts) will much regret being under the necessity to abandon the Turks to the fate of war.

Jan. 9, 1792. A Treaty of Peace was concluded between Russia and the Porte, of which the articles were as follow:

I. There shall be from henceforth a stable, permanent friendship between the High Contracting Powers.

II. All the stipulations in force before the late rupture shall be renewed.

III. The

III. The Dniester shall hereafter be considered as the frontier and line of demarcation between the respective States. All the territories situated on the right hand of that river shall be restored to the Porte.

IV. The principal cities of Moldavia and Wallachia shall be confirmed in their ancient rights and privileges; the inhabitants shall be exempted from all tribute during two years, and those who wish to sell their property, and remove elsewhere, shall be permitted so to do.

V. The Sublime Porte hereby guarantees the tranquillity of Grufinia, Georgia, and the neighbouring territories.

VI. The Sublime Porte undertakes to do the same in regard to Caucâsus.

VII. The Sublime Porte undertakes to do the same in regard to all the piracies of the Barbary corsairs, and to indemnify the subjects of Russia from any losses they may sustain in consequence of an infraction of any of the above three articles.

VIII. Li-

VIII. Liberty shall be granted to prisoners of all nations, whether Russians, Greeks, Moldavians, Poles, &c. &c.

IX. All hostilities shall cease, &c. &c.

X. The two high contracting Powers shall send Ambassadors reciprocally to each other.

XI. All the Russian forces, either appertaining to the sea or land service, shall quit the Ottoman territories on or before the 10th of May.

XII. The ratification of the Count de Kefborolko and the Grand Vizier shall be interchanged within 15 days.

XIII. That of the respective Sovereigns in five weeks, reckoning from the day of the signature of the present treaty.

The unexpected peace between Russia and Sweden, gave rise in this country to many remarks and insinuations, tending to effect the dignity of the British empire. It was presumed that we should have sent a fleet to the assistance of the King of Sweden, at Wibourg, or that we should have

have otherwise obliged the Empress to enter into equitable terms of pacification, and that it was her contempt of this country which induced her to abide its mediations; but these surmises and assertions seem vague and presumptive; for in all probability the interference of Britain induced the Empress to give peace to the Swede, by which her pride was saved from the appearance of compulsion.

N

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

*The Empress recalls her Ambassador from France.—
 Manifestos concerning the partition of Poland.—
 Struggles against it.—Arbitrary conduct of Russia.
 —Disturbances.—Bravery of Kosciuski, who de-
 feats the Russians.—Is afterwards made prisoner.
 —Massacre at Prague.—Intrigues with Sweden
 —Death and Funeral of the Empress. — Con-
 clusion.*

THE proceedings at this time in France gave Catherine much dissatisfaction. After the attack of the Tuilleries, and deposition of Louis XVI. (Aug. 10, 1792,) the Empress recalled her Ambassador from France, and ordered the French Ambassador to quit her capital in eight days. But the most active part she took was relative to Poland, whose Patriots were over-thrown, and the Constitution which they framed, subverted by a foreign force.

Jan. 6, 1793, the King of Prussia published a Manifesto respecting the marching of his troops into Poland. In direct contradiction to the letters he had written to Stanislaus, congratulating him on the change of Government in Poland, in May 1791; he now asserted that this change had been effect-

effected without the knowledge of the neighbouring *friendly* powers. After lamenting the revolution, and the disappointment of his hopes, that the troubles in Poland would have terminated without his interference, he added, that he had concerted measures with the Courts of Vienna and Petersburg, and had resolved to send a sufficient body of troops into the territories of the Republic, and particularly into Great Poland. Accordingly the Prussian troops advanced to Thorn, and one of its detachments appeared under the walls of the city. The patriotic inhabitants having refused entrance, experienced an open attack ; the gates were at last broken open, and (Jan. 24,) the Prussian regiments entered this defenceless city. In a short time Dantzic became completely subjected to the Prussians, and a garrison of 1,700 men, was quartered upon the inhabitants.

Feb. 3. The confederated Poles having sat at Grodno, published a Protest against the violent entrance of these troops, declaring themselves ready to sacrifice their lives in defence of their liberties and independence. This Confederation dispatched a note (dated Feb. 6,) to Count de Sievers, the Russian Ambassador at that place, requesting him to inform the Empress, his mistress, that the report of a new partition of Poland had diffused a general

alarm throughout the nation ; that the Confederation with confidence for new assurances from her Majesty of *friendship* and *good will* to quiet these alarms, which were considerably augmented by the obstacles which M. Inglestrohm, the Prussian General had opposed to the motions of the troops of the Republic, and his prohibiting them from the use of artillery—and that the Confederation had solemnly sworn to maintain the unity and indivisibility of the Republic.

A Manifesto from the King of Prussia (dated Feb. 24,) now appeared, informing the inhabitants of this place, that the same motives which induced him to send troops into Great Poland, had put him under the necessity of making sure of Dantzic and its dependencies, and that after having agreed with other powers interested in this affair, he had charged his Lieutenant-General M. de Roumez, to take possession of Dantzic and its dependencies, with a view of preserving *good order* and *public tranquillity*.

This was succeeded by other strange Manifesto's, justifying, or attempting to justify the partition of this unfortunate country, by shrewd political pretences. The Declaration of the Emperor of Germany, which gently prepared the way, (dated *Vien-*
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enna, Feb. 14,) was couched in terms of great forbearance, but contained an absolute injunction to the Poles, resident within his own dominions, placidly to regard the impending division of their country. March 25, the Manifesto of her Imperial Majesty appeared relative to this partition. Religion, as usual, was called in to sanction the atrocious act of rapine and injustice, and the Empress *humanely* lamented the sufferings of the people of Poland, among whom it had been, for 30 years, *her incessant endeavour to maintain tranquillity*, and her grief was encreased by considering them as descended from the same race, and professing the holy Christian Religion, which would be violated by the introduction of such dreadful doctrines as were propagated by some unworthy Poles, who adopted the destructive plans of the French rebels. As an indemnification therefore for her losses, to provide for the future safety of her empire, and the Polish dominions, and to prevent all future changes of government, she *graciously* made known her intention, to take for ever under the sceptre of Russia those tracts of lands, with their inhabitants, which lie between Ducy, on the left bank of the river Dwina, to Neroch and Dubrova, and following the woiwodship of Vilna, to Stolpsta, to Nesvig and then to Pinsk; thence passing Kunish between Viskero and Novogreble, over the frontier

of Galicia ; thence to the river Dniester, and terminating in the old border of Russia and Poland at Iogertie. The Declaration of the Prussian Monarch (dated March 15,) echoed many of the sentiments in the Russian Manifesto, and laid a claim to Dantzic, Thorn, the woiwodships of Posen, Gnesen, &c. &c.

April 9. The Count de Sievers signed a further Declaration on the part of Russia, in which her Majesty stated the ingratitude with which her interference had been received, and declared, that in conjunction with the King of Prussia, and the assent of the Emperor of the Romans, she would confine the Republic of Poland within narrow bounds, to prevent the fatal effects of their jacobinical principles.

The general Confederation, in return to her Majesty's Declarations, sent a note to the Count de Sievers, expressive of their great surprize at the intended usurpation. The Ministers of Berlin and Petersburgh, delivered notes to the Polish Diet, demanding the appointment of a deputation to sanction the intended division of the country, which produced violent altercations. In the sitting of June 26, it was agreed by a large majority to claim the mediation of the foreign Courts with those

those of Berlin and Petersburgh, to induce them to withdraw their troops, and give up the provinces of the Republic. It was afterwards moved, that the Court of Russia should be only treated with, which motion was supported by the King, and carried by a majority of 107.

In a conference between the deputies and the Russian Ambassador, the former delivered a memorial, remonstrating among other things against the violence which had been committed against the Deputies of the nation, many of whom had been forcibly arrested at their houses, and demanding their enlargement. This memorial the Deputies requested the Russian Ambassador to transmit to the Empress, which he haughtily refused, and in a note to the Diet, accompanied by menaces, insisted on the full ratification of the treaty of alliance and commerce between Russia and the Republic. The Diet refused acceding to the Ambassador's wishes; accordingly another note was sent equivalent to a declaration of war, being full of threats, and this was succeeded by others both from the Russian and Prussian Ministers. At length Count de Sievers presented his ultimatum, wherein he said, "that he thought it of absolute necessity for preventing tumult, *to order two battalions of grenadiers, with four pieces of cannon, to surround the castle, &c.*"

The castle was accordingly furrounded, and Major-General Huntenfield, with some of his officers, posted themselves in the senate, under pretence of guarding the King ; but the King wisely sent a declaration to the Russian Ambassador, refusing to open the session in the presence of the Russian officers, whereupon they were all, except the General, commanded to retire. The debates were long and violent, and Sept. 2, the Diet came to a resolution, wherein they declared, that being deprived of free will, furrounded by an armed force, and threatened with a further invasion, they were compelled to authorize a deputation to sign the treaty, planned and amended under the dictation of the Russian Ambassador.

The violences exercised on this occasion were exceeded by those on Sept. 23, when the subsequent negotiation with Prussia was opened by the Russian Ambassador. The house furrounded by a military force, continued some hours without proceeding to business, and in this melancholy situation, were insulted by the presence of the Russian General, who proudly paraded the senate in the presence of offended Majesty, using both threats and persuasions to induce the Members of the Diet unconditionally to subscribe to the mandates of Prussia. After five hours spent in this humiliating scene, it was agreed

to make a solemn protest against the violent proceedings of the Russian Ambassador, Sept. 2, and to preserve a mournful silence, when the subject in question was proposed, instead of expressing their sentiments by the customary mode of voting, or by acclamation: thus terminated this extraordinary negotiation, and the treaty of cession of the Polish provinces was signed.

The desponding and depressed Polish nation, supposing its political existence to depend on a perpetual alliance with a powerful neighbour, put itself under the protection of Russia, who now became complete mistress of whatever government should be therein established.

The termination of the celebrated Diet of Grodno, was marked by turbulence and precipitation. The two last sessions were particularly tumultuous, and every effort was exerted, in vain, by the party hostile to the Court of Russia. A military order, destined for the decoration and reward of those officers, who had signalized themselves in the service of Poland, had been abolished by the desire of the Empress. Its re-establishment was now decreed, and an officer, decked with those honors, publicly thanked the King for restoring to the brave soldiers of Poland their ancient marks of distinction. He

was followed by most of the Nuncios, who pressed round the throne to kiss his Majesty's hand, but the King, alarmed at a decree which he feared might incense the Empress, was rather averse to their courtesies. Catherine offended at the re-establishment of this order, dispatched a courier to Count de Sievers, whose departure from Warsaw being reported, the alarmed Council, having immediately assembled, suppressed the offensive order, and sent a deputation to Catherine to announce the reparation of the fault committed by the late Diet.

Feb. 17, 1794, the Baron de Ingelstroph, who had succeeded the Count de Sievers as Ambassador at Warsaw, demanded a public annulling of the acts of the Diets of 1788, and 1791. The Court of Russia soon after issued its mandate for the reduction of the military force to 16,000 men. This was opposed by several regiments, particularly in South Prussia, where the insurgents, headed by Madalinski, a Polish nobleman, and brigadier of the national troops, peremptorily refused to disband. The spirit of resistance being widely diffused, 15,000 Russian troops were sent into Poland, and the Ambassador was instructed to deliver to the permanent Council an official document, representing the danger which threatened the King, and request-

questing the Commissioners of war to dispatch an army to oppose Madalinski, and further to take every suspicious person into custody. These requisitions were however refused.

Kosciuski, a gallant commander, about 40 years of age, of middle stature, and penetrating aspect, now burned with revenge at the imperious conduct of the Russians, who still harrassed the oppressed Poles, and drove them almost to desperation. Early in February this intrepid hero appeared at the head of a considerable body of Polish insurgents, attacked the Prussians, who had taken possession of their country, forced them to retreat, and pursued them to a considerable distance. The Russian troops having evacuated Cracow, March 23, Kosciuski entered that town on the succeeding night, and next morning (25,) ordered the gates to be shut, and declared himself commander in chief of all the Polish forces. He issued a proclamation, inviting the nation to shake off their disgraceful fetters, in forming a new Confederation, which was received with unanimous applause.

Warsaw was now in a state of the highest fermentation. Vigorous measures were adopted by the permanent Council—a decree passed, declaring the insurgents rebels, and subjecting them to the most

arbitrary punishments—every suspected person was to be seized, and a guard of Russians was appointed for the *preservation* of his Polish Majesty, who issued a proclamation, exhorting his subjects to a peaceable acquiescence, and urging the danger of resistance.

Baron d'Ingelstrophm having surrounded the Diet at Warsaw with a military force, demanded the surrender of the arsenal. The demand was spiritedly resisted by the Polish nobles, who had taken an oath of fidelity to Kosciuski, and now sent him notice of the affair. Kosciuski about the end of March took the route to Warsaw with his army, and a reinforcement of 4,000 peasants armed with pikes, &c. &c. was met (April 4,) by a detachment of 6,000 Russians, when a fierce encounter ensued, wherein Kosciuski, and his followers, were victorious. General Bener, with a Russian detachment, was afterwards dispatched to seize the arsenal, and disarm the garrison, but the burghers had already taken possession of the arsenal, removed the arms, and Bener and his whole detachment were taken prisoners.

Her Imperial Majesty, alarmed at a storm which now threatened ruin and desolation to her usurped authority, immediately encreased the number of
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her forces. Several skirmishes took place between the contending parties, the events of which were in general favourable to the Poles. A Prussian army under General de Elſner was diſpatched to the attack of Cracow, which (June 15) ſurrendered at diſcretion. Koſciufki, being placed between two hoſtile armies, deemed it prudent to retreat.

The Ruſſian and Prussian forces had attacked Warſaw, but abandoned the ſiege, (Sept. 5) after a fruitleſs attack of two months. Oct. 10, a dreadful engagement took place between General Ferſen and Koſciufki. The battle which began at ſeven in the morning, did not end till noon. Koſciufki, who was continually in the hotteſt part of the engagement, had three horſes killed under him, in which he fell—was wounded and made priſoner! This important defeat, excited univerſal ſorrow at Warſaw.

Nov. 4. The Ruſſians attacked the ſuburb of Prague. They were bravely reſiſted by the Poſiſh Generals, who finding themſelves inſufficient, endeavoured to find ſafety by retiring into Warſaw over a bridge. In their retreat, they were met by another body of Ruſſians, and a dreadful carnage enſued. After a ſevere conflict for eight hours, the Poles gave up, but Suwarrow, remarkable for his cruelty,

cruelty, continued the massacre for two hours longer—5,000 Poles were slain in the assault—the remainder were either imprisoned or dispersed. The Russians, having plundered the citizen's houses, set fire to the town, and renewed the slaughter. In the whole of this siege, about 30,000 of the Poles were inhumanly put to death. Count Potocki, the chief of the insurrection, made propositions of peace, in the name of the Republic, but he was received with extreme haughtiness by the infamous Suwarrow. The city surrendered at discretion under the single condition of securing to the inhabitants their lives and property. The Russian General made his triumphal entry into Warsaw, Nov. 9, and the chief magistrate delivered him the keys at the bridge of Prague. Kosciuski, when recovered from his wound, was sent to Petersburg under a very powerful military force, and confined in a dungeon near the Russian capital. Dec. 20, a courier arrived from the Empress, demanding the arrestation of Count Ignatius Potocki, and several of the other patriots, whom she ordered to be sent to Petersburg. The same messenger, also, brought a command from the Empress to the unhappy monarch of Poland, to repair to Grodno, who, in obedience to the summons, set off from his capital, Jan. 7, 1795. He there lived in a very homely manner, while Prince Repnin, Governor of Lithuania,

ania, passed away his time in royal splendor, and had daily a banquet of 500 covers.

The above cruel slaughter was celebrated Dec. 1, when Te Deum was sung, and public thanksgivings offered, and all those who had been most active in the massacre, received gratifications and rewards from the Empress. The Grand Duke however, expressed some disapprobation of the business, and it is imagined, that from that time, her Imperial Majesty wished to have altered the line of succession, and transfer it to the female branch.

A treaty between Russia and Great Britain was ratified in January 1796, by the mutual exchange of their instruments between Lord Grenville and Count Woronzow.

The King of Sweden, about this time intended to espouse the Princess of Mecklenburgh, which gave her Imperial Majesty much uneasiness, as she wished the King to marry her eldest grand-daughter, then about 13 years of age. Catherine employed every artifice to prevent these nuptials, and at last suffered her rage to get so much the better of good breeding, as to occasion the following

Abolition

*Abolition of Court Messages on Family Events,
between Sweden and Russia.*

“ The King of Sweden thought it his duty, on the occasion of his lately agreed on marriage, to give a Princess (the Empress of Russia,) who is near relation and ally, the same proof of his attention, as he readily shewed towards their Danish and Prussian Majesties, to whom he is likewise attached by ties of friendship and good neighbourhood. It was, therefore, with the utmost astonishment, that his Majesty saw this attention by no means returned by the Empress of Russia. The King has accordingly resolved, for the future, not to receive from the Russian Court, any of these particular missions, which concern family events; and which have ever before been in use between the two respective courts, but which the King has now abolished for ever.”

Stockholm, the 12th of Feb. 1796.

Having employed every possible intrigue to break off this match, the Empress now went so far as to threaten hostilities. Warlike preparations were continued with the utmost vigour: at length, having succeeded in persuading the young King to decline the marriage, she prevailed on him to pay a visit to Peterburgh. All differences between the
Courts.

Courts of Peterburgh and Stockholm were now accommodated—his Swedish Majesty declared to Baron Bulow, Lord Chief Chamberlain to the Duke of Mecklenburgh, and his Minister at Stockholm, that on account of the precarious state of his health, he wished to postpone his marriage for some time. He accepted the Empress's invitation, and it must be acknowledged, that during his residence at Peterburgh, her Majesty did every thing that magnificence and liberality could bestow in dazzling the mind of her royal guest. The King saw his intended bride, and there was every appearance that the contract of a public betrothing would be fulfilled. The day was even fixed for the ceremony :—the Grand Duke, and most of the Royal Family, with the Great Officers of State, were assembled to witness the King's signature to the contract, when lo ! his Majesty excused himself from attending, and soon after left Peterburgh without being betrothed. The Grand Duke never spoke to the King afterwards ; but the Empress continued to treat him with great cordiality and affection to the moment of his departure.

The cause of this match being broken off, was said to be owing to the Empress wishing to insist that there should be a public church in Stockholm,
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for the exercise of the Greek Religion; the King, however, refused to permit it, observing, that he could only allow his intended bride a private chapel, and one Greek priest for her devotion.

Such was the anxiety of her Imperial Majesty to shew honour to the young King while he was on his visit to Petersburg, that she assisted at all the galas given on the occasion, sat up late, and altered in some measure her mode of diet, which was usually very sparing. This is thought to have accelerated her dissolution, which took place Nov. 9, 1796. She had been somewhat indisposed several days previous to the 8th, but on the morning of that day, was very cheerful, and took her coffee as usual. She afterwards went to the water-closet, where she had already been twice in the course of the morning, and as she stayed an unusual time, her attendants became extremely alarmed: at length, one of her pages went to the door to listen, and not hearing the least motion, called one of her principal female attendants, who opened the door and found the Empress extended on her back, with her feet towards the door, in an apoplectic fit — medical assistance was instantly sent for, but three quarters of an hour elapsed before her chief physician, Dr. Rogerfon, (a Scotch gentleman) arrived.

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She was then bled twice, and appeared to be much relieved, but never spoke afterwards. She remained in this state till the following evening. The pulsation of the heart was perceptible till nine o'clock, but a quarter before ten, the physicians pronounced her dead. When opened, two stones were found in the gall bladder, one of which weighed an ounce, and the other half an ounce, Russian weight, which is one third less than the English weight. When the Empress was taken ill, the Grand Duke was at Gatchinow, a country palace about 28 English miles from St. Peterburgh. He reached the capital about eight in the evening, and immediately after his mother's discease, was proclaimed, before the Palace in the usual form: the whole Court which was there assembled in anxious expectation from the morning of the Empress's accident to the moment of her death, immediately took the oath of allegiance to the new Sovereign, as did also the four regiments of guards, and every thing passed with the greatest order and tranquillity.

The Empress wore, according to her usual custom, a Russian dress, namely, a robe with a short train, and a vest with sleeves reaching to the wrist, like a Polonaise; the vest was of gold brocade, and the robe was of light green silk; her hair was dressed low, and lightly sprinkled with powder: she wore

wore a cap set thick with diamonds, and had a great deal of rouge. Her person, though rather below the middle size, was majestic, and her countenance, particularly when she spoke, expressed both dignity and sweetness.

Her character is variously represented—but certain it is, that she acquired greatness by cruelty, and in order to be *greater*, was frequently vicious. She had some pretensions to the panegyrics of philosophers; she paid the praises of several French writers, and, renewing, after the example of the tyrants of antiquity, the singularity of royal and philosophic banquets, like Dionysius, Pisistratus, Periander, Hiero, she collected at her suppers Platos, Aristippuses, Simonides, Pindars. It is true, the royal resentment was sometimes excited. It was the fortune of the poetic couriers sometimes to be sent to the mines, sometimes to be banished, a reward which Diderot received for his frankness.

She bought the library, the letters, and the papers of Voltaire; whether she meant to bury these monuments, or to inflict upon us a philosophic punishment for the contempt in which our fanaticism left the remains of a great man cannot be said. She also bought the library of D'Alembert; but her refusal to give effect to the useful instructions collected under her orders

ordess by the learned travellers of the Academy of St. Peterburgh, under the direction of Pallas and Gemmhn, proves clearly that the desire of a vain lustre, rather than the real utility of nations, was the motive of the protection she affected to give to artists and to men of letters.

Some things have passed the press which are reported to have been the produce of her Majesty's pen. She certainly took all opportunities of displaying her talents, and was ambitious to be thought the patroness of merit — this appears from the following original letter of hers to Madam Von Der Recke :—

“ Madame Von Der Recke,

“ Your second work, which I have received, has offered me no less satisfaction than the former†: both bear the marks of a heart zealous in the cause of truth, and an enlightened and comprehensive*

* Against Mr. Stark, of Darmstadt, first preacher to the Court there.

† An exposition of the impostures of the celebrated Cagliostro, which the Czarina caused to be translated into the Russian language, to guard her subjects from becoming dupes to his artifices.

mind.

mind. It is to be lamented, that, at the end of the eighteenth century, opinions should be revived, which were shown to be false and absurd a thousand years ago, and were rejected and reprobated as such by all rational people, at a time when the human mind was so greatly debased by superstition.

“ Should, however, the tribe of impostors have again acquired the upper hand, and the number of dupes have proportionally increased; still it is to be hoped, that all those adherents of the Temple of Isis, their superstitions, and reveries, will meet the same fate as they have done before; particularly when such excellent pens as yours strip their secret juggles of that veil of nonsense in which they are enwrapped, and continue to hold out to the world such forcible proofs against them. Herewith, Madame Von Der Recke, I bid you adieu, and remain,

Your well-wisher,

CATHERINE.”

Tzarskoi Selo, 17th June, 1788.

When the present Lord Malmesbury was our Ambassador at Russia, an Ode to the Empress was published in antient Greek and Russian, and these literary compliments were no doubt well rewarded.

The

The King of Sweden in his * " Danger of the Political Balance of Europe," enters largely into the domestic and foreign intrigues of the Empress, and forms a strong contrast of her cruel policy with the humanity and unsuspecting confidence of her unfortunate husband.

Her successor, Paul Petrowitz, supported with impatience the yoke of this imperious mother, and his pacific sentiments were so strikingly contrasted with her ambition, that his accession to the throne cannot fail to produce a change in the plans of Russia. Having acquired in his travels a knowledge of the pride of the English, he detests the character, and the policy of that nation; and besides a particular affection seems to attach him to Prussia, the views of which he has shewn a disposition to participate.

The Emperor's first act was to pay due honour to the insulted remains of an injured father, which were ordered to be brought from Irefski monastery. The corpse was taken to the Imperial Palace, Dec. 2, in a procession the most grand, awful, and solemn, that could possibly be witnessed. The train occupied the whole extent between these two places, a space of

* Translated by the Right Hon. Lord Mountmorres.

five versts, or upwards of three miles. The Emperor, Empress, the two Grand Dukes and Duchesses, with many young ladies, nobility, gentry, &c. accompanied the procession, which lasted from day-break till past two in the afternoon. On the 5th of the same month, the funeral ceremony of the remains of Peter III. and the late Catherine II. took Place. It was equally grand and numerous, with the former, nay more; but, as it passed through narrow streets, it could not show quite so well. They were interred in the castle.

The Emperor now recalled from banishment several who had suffered under his mother's sway.—Having respect for the Polish Patriots, he went himself to the brave Kosciuszki in his dungeon, and told him, "I come to break the chains of thy bondage—it is the Emperor himself who announces thy liberty." To Ignatus Potocki, he also sent a pardon, hoping he would not be his enemy.

The present Emperor is short in stature, and even approaching to the diminutive—his face is round and concave—his nose turned up, and his chin sharp. The Empress possesses considerable ability and address, and exercises almost unbounded influence over her husband.

We

We shall now conclude with a short but descriptive picture of the Russian Court, which surpasses all the ideas that the most elaborate account can suggest. It retains many traces of its ancient Asiatic pomp, blended with European refinement. An immense retinue of courtiers always preceded and followed the Empress; the costliness and glare of their apparel, and a profusion of precious stones, created a splendour, of which the magnificence of other courts can give us only a faint idea. The court-dress of the men is in the French fashion; that of the ladies, is a gown and petticoat, with a small hoop; the gown has long hanging sleeves and a short train, and is of a different colour from the petticoat. The ladies wore, according to the fashion of the winter of 1777, at Paris and London, very lofty head-dresses, and were not sparing in the use of rouge. Amid the several articles of sumptuousness which distinguish the Russian nobility, there is none, perhaps, more calculated to strike a foreigner than the profusion of diamonds and other precious stones, which sparkle in every part of their dress. In most other European countries, these costly ornaments are (excepting among a few of the richest and principal nobles) almost entirely appropriated to the ladies; but in this, the men vie with the fair sex in the use of them. Many of the nobi-

lity are almost covered with diamonds; their buttons, buckles, hilts of swords, and epaulets, are composed of this valuable material; their hats are frequently embroidered with several rows of them; and a diamond star upon the coat was scarcely a distinction. This passion for jewels seems to pervade the lower ranks of people, for even private families abound with them; and the wife of a common Russian burgher will appear with a head-dress or girdle of pearls, and other precious stones, to the value of two or three hundred pounds.

The hermitage takes its appellation from its being the scene of Imperial retirement, but bears no other resemblance to an hermitage, except in its name, the apartments being extremely spacious, and decorated in a superb stile of regal magnificence. It contains a numerous assemblage of pictures, chiefly purchased by her late Majesty. Its principal ornament was the celebrated collection of Crozat, which devolved by heritage to the Baron de Thieres, upon whose death the Empress purchased it from his heirs.

A winter and summer garden, comprised within the site of the building, are singular curiosities, and such as do not, perhaps, occur in any other palace

In Europe. The summer garden, in the true Asiatic style, occupies the whole level top of the edifice. The winter garden is entirely roofed and surrounded with glass frames : it is an high and spacious hot-house, laid out in gravel walks, ornamented with parterres of flowers, orange-trees, and other shrubs, and full of different kinds of birds of various climates.

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